ALL ABOUT HISTORY

NEW

Hoover's war
The founder of the FBI's personal war on crime

HITLER'S ASTRONAUTS
The Führer's plan for space domination

10 GREATEST ESCAPES
Assassination attempts, invasions and world wars

THE TURBULENT REIGN OF ELIZABETH
Destroyer of Armadas, discoverer of new worlds and the driving force behind a nation's might

History of crime
Meet those with no regard for the law

ip IMAGINE PUBLISHING
DigitalEdition
GreatDigitalMags.com
ISSUE 008

The fall of Cicero
How the politician lost his tongue

Actual diameter 22.00mm

Celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the last Guinea ever issued

HIGH QUALITY 22 CARAT GOLD COIN ISSUE

Did you know? *All the gold ever mined would easily fit under the Eiffel Tower, forming a cube of only 19m along each side.*

A number of existing gold mines have closed in recent years and others near exhaustion. Demand is solid as governments have increased their purchasing of gold year-on-year in 2010, 2011 and 2012. Many individuals are also increasing their buying as they no longer trust paper based assets and prefer to hold some of their wealth in a portable and transferable form.

Historic Guineas are among Britain's most sought-after and prestigious gold coins and last year marked the 200th anniversary of the last guinea ever issued. To coincide with this anniversary a remarkable new gold Guinea has been minted.

Struck in solid 22 carat gold and featuring the portrait of Queen Elizabeth II, the coin also features a reference to the East India Company which, in the eighteenth century, provided gold to His Majesty's Treasury for some of the guineas issued.

Struck to the highest possible standard, known to collectors as Proof quality, this exquisite gold coin is a limited edition and **only 1,000 have been minted**. The London Mint Office has the only remaining stocks of this coin in the UK and we have reserved a small number so that new customers who otherwise may not have the opportunity to acquire this coin, may now own one. Significant demand is expected for this strictly limited gold coin so apply now - with no further obligation or ongoing commitment.

Note: A handful of original eighteenth century King George III gold guineas are also available to new customers. Strictly limited, please call for details.

THE
LONDON MINT
OFFICE

UNRIVALLED EXPERTS IN THE FASCINATING WORLD OF COINS

To apply, call FREE today, on

0800 195 2925

Please quote reservation number 92008196

Lines are open NOW. Limit one. UK mainland households only.

Offer valid while stocks. Your order is covered by The London Mint Office's no-questions-asked 14 day right of return | Technical specifications: Coin: Guinea (£1.05 face value) | Diameter: 22.0mm | Date of coin: 2013 | Purity: 22 carat gold | Issuing authority: St Helena | The London Mint Office reserves the right to alter or withdraw this offer before the end-date | The London Mint Office 13-15 Bouverie Street London EC4Y 8DP

The airship Hindenburg crashed to the ground in a ball of fire but, remarkably, there were survivors. To read about this and other narrow escapes turn to page 78

Welcome

"I know I have the body of a weak and feeble woman, but I have the heart and stomach of a king, and of a king of England too," said Queen Elizabeth I to the assembled English forces awaiting an expected Spanish invasion. Whether Elizabeth ruled over a golden age or not is a matter of debate – turn to page 44 to see our conclusion – but what is known is that she had to fight for the crown.

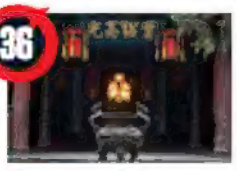
During her turbulent reign she inherited a volatile religious situation with both Catholic and Protestant faiths having ardent supporters and she also had to contend with attempted foreign invasions, internal rebellions and her council members trying to marry her off to shore up the nation's safety.

On page 56 we journey back to WWII, where scientists working for the Führer were driven to invent increasingly powerful and sophisticated rockets that could cause mass devastation. There were also plans for these rockets to go into space – but the Nazis couldn't have ever achieved such a feat, could they?

From a personal viewpoint I'm fascinated by ancient Rome and Cicero is one of my favorite figures of this time period, so I greatly enjoyed the article on page 28. Remember, if you have any burning history questions you think we should be answering then do get in touch and we'll see what we can do.

Andrew Brown
Editor

This issue's highlights



Bluffer's guide
The Three Kingdoms period in ancient China was one of immense conflict with three feuding states vying for power and trying to unify the country under their rule.

Hitler's astronauts
The Führer's plans for world domination didn't end with the world – he was urging his scientists to devise new machines that would allow him to also control the stars.

Witch-hunting
Read the dark and disturbing true tales of the witch-hunters and the gruesome methods they used to establish if someone was a witch or not...

Be part of history www.historyanswers.co.uk Share your views and opinions online | Facebook /AllAboutHistory | Twitter @AboutHistoryMag

© Alamy

CONTENTS

Welcome to All About History

44 THE TURBULENT REIGN OF

ELIZABETH

Find out about the foreign invasion forces, internal rebellions and religious battles that Elizabeth I defeated to usher in a golden age for her country

CRIME

12 Since the earliest days of mankind, antisocial behaviour has existed

14 Hall of fame
Meet some of history's most notorious criminals

16 Crime throughout the ages
Take a trip through the history of crime and see how it has evolved

18 Inside history
Find out how Antwerp Diamond robbers circumvented security to make off with $100m

20 Anatomy of...
A Victorian policeman

22 How to...
Rob a train in the Wild West

24 Day in the life
Of a prison guard on 'the Rock', more formally known as Alcatraz

26 Top 5 facts
Dick Turpin; highwayman, petty robber and source of myths

FEATURES

56 Hitler's astronauts
The Führer's plan for space domination

64 Wrath of the Khans
How Kublai Khan expended his Mongolian Empire through diplomacy and the sword

70 Hoover's war on crime
Hoover's battle against those who threatened his American dream

78 Narrowest escapes
Read 10 of the past's closest shaves

86 Witch-hunting
The truth behind witch-hunting

EVERY ISSUE

06 Defining moments
Pictures that perfectly capture a moment in time

28 Heroes & villains
The Roman politician, philosopher, lawyer and famed orator, Marcus Tullius Cicero

32 Eye witness
Ólafur Gränz was taking a walk through his Icelandic island town when he was met by a volcanic eruption that would turn it into the 'Pompeii of the north'

36 Bluffer's guide
Become an instant expert on the Three Kingdoms period, the most turbulent part of Chinese history

38 What if?
The pilgrims and puritans had never made it to the New World and settled in America?

42 Tour guide
Take a walk through the Kremlin, Russia's iconic heart of power

92 Competition
Win a fantastic prize by correctly answering our history-related question. What are you waiting for?

94 Reviews
Books, films and apps about English kings and queens that are worth your attention

98 History vs Hollywood
Does *Elizabeth: the Golden Age* live up to its title in historical accuracy or is it a load of Tudor tripe?

ENJOYED THE MAGAZINE? SUBSCRIBE & SAVE 50% Page 76

DEFINING MOMENT

PROCESSION OF AN INTERNATIONAL STATESMAN

The body of Nelson Mandela, who passed away on 5 December, is given a military escort as he is driven to the Union Building in Pretoria, South Africa. The first black president of South Africa lay in the Union Building for two days so members of the public could pay their respects before his state funeral.

11 December 2013

© Alamy

DEFINING MOMENT

ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE LIGHTS UP THE ALGIERS NIGHT SKY

Anti-aircraft (otherwise known as Ack-Ack) fire illuminates the night sky of Algiers, the capital of Algeria, during an air raid by the German Luftwaffe. In 1942 the Allies launched Operation Torch which retook some key North African cities, including Algiers.

01 January 1943

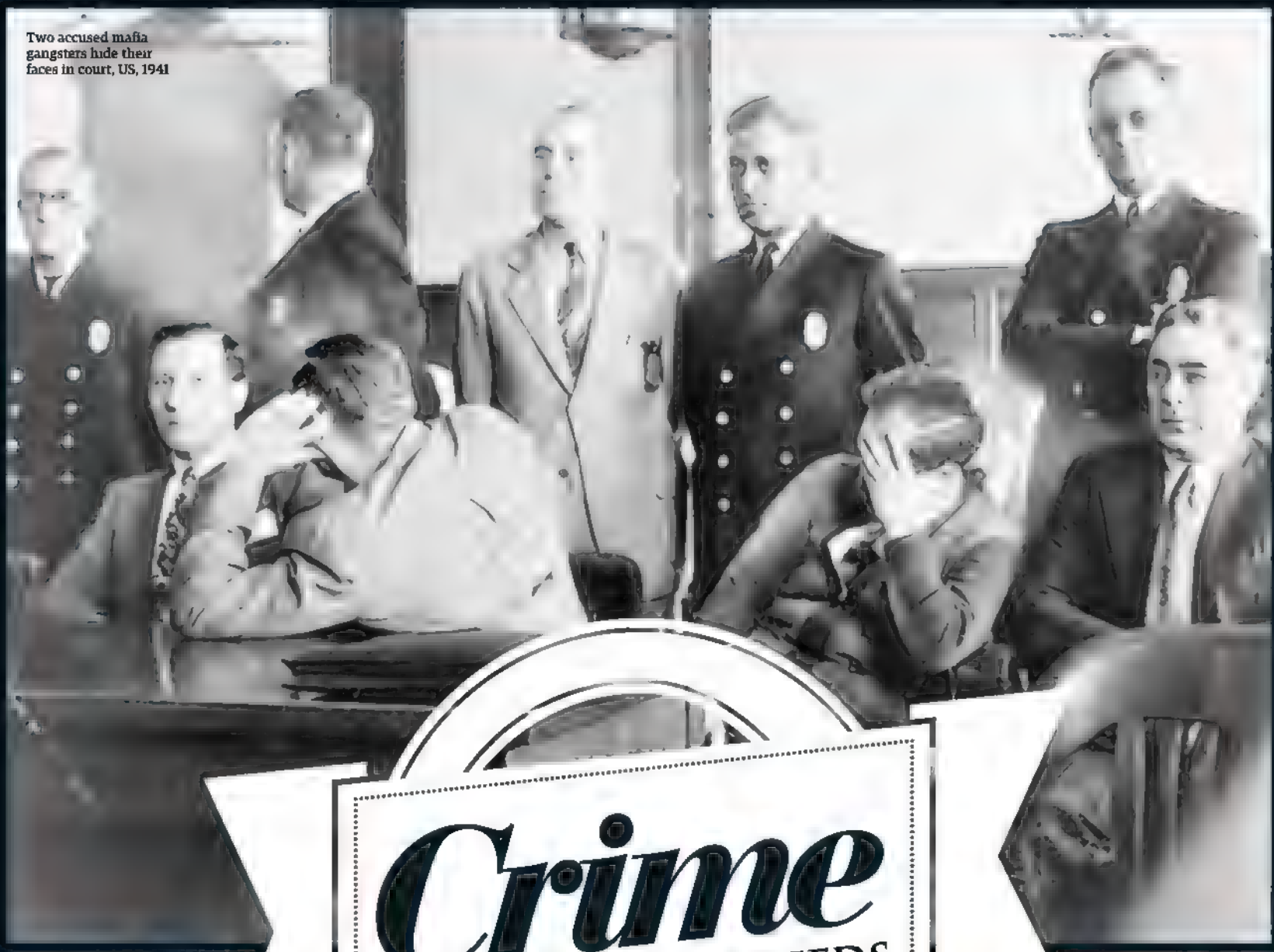
DEFINING MOMENT

ROYAL WEDDING CAKE

A worker from Lyons of Cadby Hall puts the finishing touches on the wedding cake of Princess Elizabeth (later Queen Elizabeth II) and Philip Mountbatten (Prince Philip) in London. Elizabeth has been queen of England since 1952 and is the second-longest serving British monarch in history.

7 November 1947

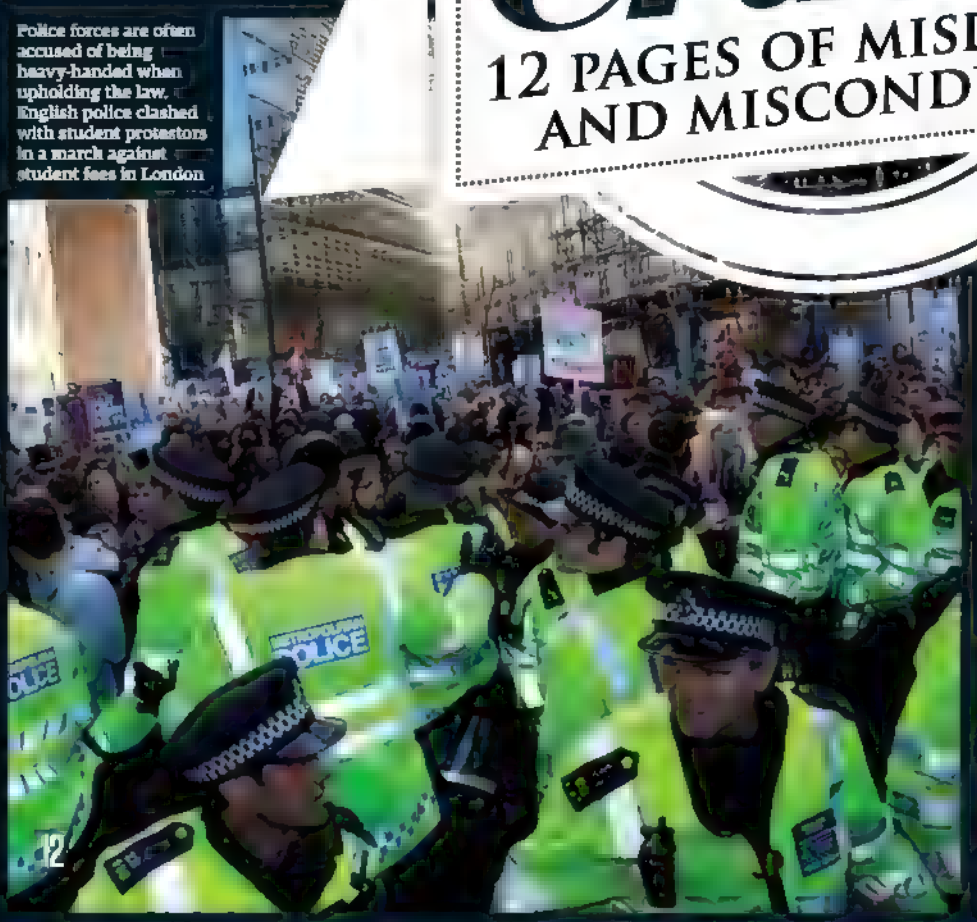
© Getty



Two accused mafia gangsters hide their faces in court, US, 1941

Crime

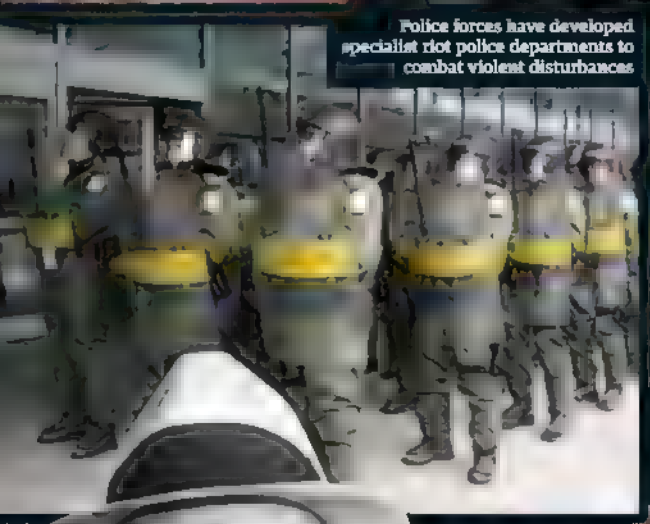
12 PAGES OF MISDEEDS AND MISCONDUCT



Police forces are often accused of being heavy-handed when upholding the law. English police clashed with student protestors in a march against student fees in London

Charles I of England was executed after the English Civil War – for most of English history simply laying a hand on the monarch would have been a crime

The Puritan Mary Dyer being led to the gallows in Boston, 1660

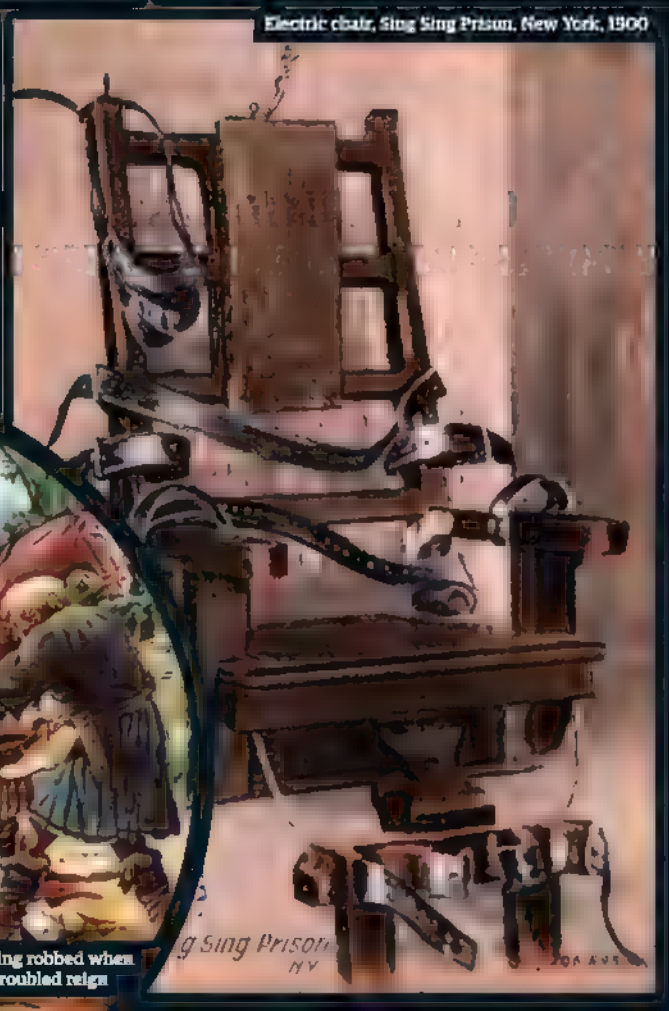


Police forces have developed specialist riot police departments to combat violent disturbances

Women in Chicago are arrested for wearing one-piece bathing suits without the required leg coverings, 1922

Famous criminal George 'Machine Gun' Kelly

The Archbishop of Canterbury being robbed when travelling during King Stephen's troubled reign



Electric chair, Sing Sing Prison, New York, 1900

This issue

14 Hall of fame
10 crooks you definitely wouldn't want to meet down a dark alley

16 Crime through the ages
A timeline of history's lawbreakers and the often-gruesome punishments dished out to them

18 Inside history
Get the inside scoop on one of the 20th century's most notorious robberies, the Antwerp diamond heist

20 Anatomy of...
A Victorian English bobby

22 How to...
Rob a train in the Wild West

24 Day in the life
Of a prison officer at the world's most notorious prison: Alcatraz

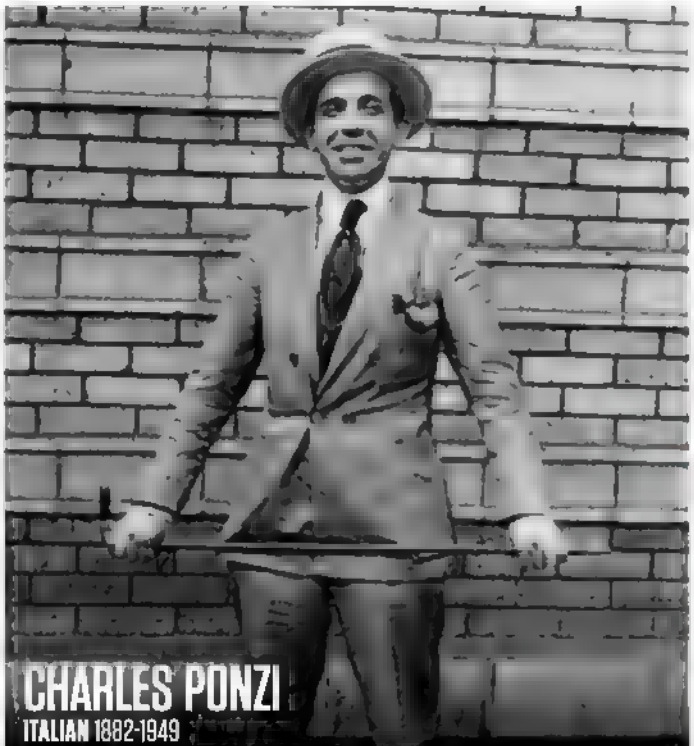
26 Top 5 facts
One of history's most infamous highwaymen, Dick Turpin

© Look and Learn; Alamy; Getty

Hall of fame

10 INFAMOUS CRIMINALS

Meet the criminals who have sealed their place in history through illegal actions



CHARLES PONZI

ITALIAN 1882-1949

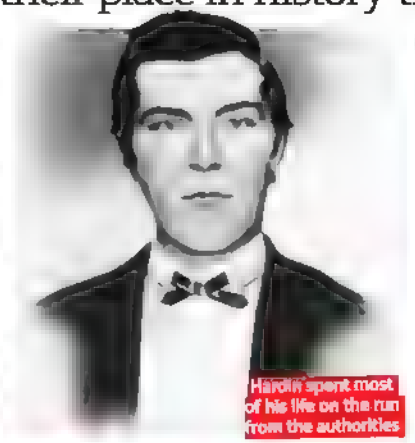
A criminal so infamous that a type of crime – the ponzi scheme – has been named after him. The fraudster promised business partners a 50 per cent profit within 45 days, or a 100 per cent profit within 90 days, by buying discounted postal reply coupons abroad and redeeming them at face value in the US as a form of arbitrage. In reality, Ponzi was paying early investors using the investments of later investors and it collapsed after a year, costing his victims $20 million (£12 million), a small fortune at the time. He was sentenced to five years in prison and was later deported from the United States. He died in poverty in Brazil.

Reggie and his brother Ronald became British celebrities

Reginald Kray

ENGLISH 1933 2000

Along with his twin brother Ronald, Reginald became one of the most feared gangsters in London. After being dishonourably discharged from the army the pair bought a snooker club in east London and started running protection rackets. They were soon involved in hijacking, armed robbery and arson and had bought a number of clubs and other properties. In the Sixties they were involved in London's celebrity scene before both were sentenced to prison for the killing of Jack McVitie. Reginald was released in 2000 on compassionate grounds due to bladder cancer and died at home.



Hardin spent most of his life on the run from the authorities

John Wesley Hardin

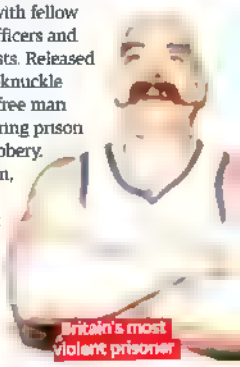
AMERICAN 1853 1895

A serial murderer named after the founder of the Methodist church, Hardin was just 14 years old when he stabbed a boy who was taunting him. He spent the majority of his adult life being pursued by the law until he was finally captured in 1878. He claimed to have killed 42 men in total, although the newspapers attributed 'only' 27 killings to his name. Hardin wrote his autobiography and studied law while in prison, but was shot and killed in a Texas saloon only a year after his release.

Charles Bronson

ENGLISH 1952

Commonly referred to as the most violent prisoner in Britain, Bronson, whose birth name is Michael Gordon Peterson, is a petty criminal who has become notorious for his crimes inside prison. Sentenced in 1974 to seven years in prison, Bronson's sentence doubled due to fights with fellow criminals and prison officers and one-man rooftop protests. Released in 1988, he began bare-knuckle boxing but was only a free man for 69 days before entering prison again for planning a robbery. Bronson is still in prison, as a 'Category A' prisoner, and has spent more time in solitary confinement than any other prisoner in British history.



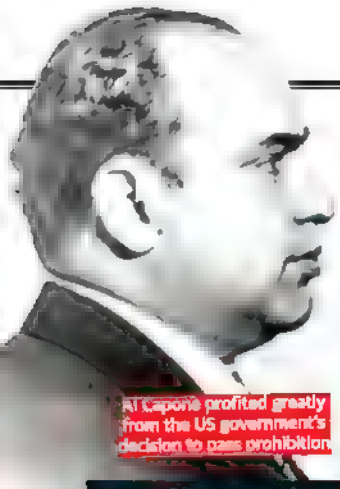
Britain's most violent prisoner

"I rob banks for a living, what do you do?" *John Dillinger*

John Herbert Dillinger

AMERICAN 1903 1934

Such was John Dillinger's notoriety that his actions sparked the formation of the FBI as the nation demanded an end to Dillinger and his gang's reign of terror. Early in his life he was sentenced to 10 years in prison for assault and battery and when he was released during the Great Depression, work was so difficult to come by he turned back to crime and robbing banks. After his second arrest he broke out of prison and continued his crime spree before it was finally put to an end when he was fatally shot by J Edgar Hoover's FBI agents in a bloody showdown outside a theater in Chicago in 1934.



Al Capone profited greatly from the US government's decision to pass prohibition

Al Capone

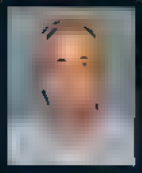
AMERICAN 1899 1947

Al 'Scarface' Capone was born in Brooklyn at the turn of the 20th century and became one of the prohibition era's most notorious gangsters. Recruited by mob boss Johnny Torrio, he moved to Chicago and began to work his way up the criminal organisation whose line of business included alcohol, prostitution and gambling. Following Torrio's serious injury in an assassination attempt Capone took charge and is believed to be behind the 1929 Saint Valentine's Day Massacre, where killed seven of his died. Found guilty of tax evasion and violating prohibition laws, Capone served seven years in a federal prison, including a spell in Alcatraz. He died in 1947 of a stroke and pneumonia.

Aileen Carol Wuornos

AMERICAN 1956-2002

In 1989 and 1990 in Florida, USA, Wuornos killed seven men, all of whom she claimed had either raped or attempted to rape her while she was working as a prostitute and that she had been acting in self-defense. She was ultimately convicted and sentenced to death for six of the murders and was executed by the State of Florida by lethal injection on 9 October 2002.



BERNARD MADOFF

AMERICAN 1938-

On 29 June 2009, Bernie Madoff's fall from grace was complete. He pleaded guilty to defrauding investors out of billions of dollars and was sentenced to 150 years in prison. Concerns about Madoff's business had surfaced as early as 1999, when financial analyst Harry Markopolos informed the Securities and Exchange Commission that he thought Madoff's gains were impossible. Madoff was a generous contributor to government campaigns and friendly with those in high positions within the system supposed to be regulating the finance sector, which some believe is a reason he managed to continue trading for so long. It was not until his sons told authorities that their father had confessed to them that the asset management unit of his firm was "one big lie" that he was brought to justice.

Bonnie Parker's life of crime has been immortalised in numerous books and films

Bonnie Elizabeth Parker

AMERICAN 1910 1934

With her partner Clyde Barrow and their gang, Parker terrorised much of the Central United States during the great depression. Their crimes captured the attention of the US public and they were often depicted favourably in the press despite the violence of their crimes; the gang are held responsible for the murder of nine police officers and several members of the public. The pair were ambushed and killed on a rural road in Louisiana by a posse of officers.

ANNE BONNY

IRISH 1702-1782

Bonny's family travelled to America when she was young and her mother died soon afterwards. She was said to have had a fierce temper and aged 13 stabbed a servant girl with a table knife. She married small-time pirate James Bonny and they moved to Nassau, a sanctuary for English pirates. There she became the mistress of Jack 'Calico Jack' Rackham, captain of the pirate sloop Revenge, and took to the seas with him. Bonney made no attempt to disguise her gender and was a highly skilled pirate. She was eventually captured but no record exists of her execution, leading some to speculate that she [illegible]

© Getty Images

Crime across history

TRIAL OF SOCRATES

GREECE 399 BCE

One of the most famous criminal trials in history, the trial and subsequent execution of Socrates echoes through the ages. Wrongly accused of impious acts, including 'failing to acknowledge the gods that the city [of Athens] acknowledges' and 'introducing new deities', through his philosophical musings and teachings, Socrates was put before an Athenian jury and, after refusing to defend himself against the spurious charges brought against him, was sentenced to death.

His followers then encouraged him to flee from the city only for the philosopher to refuse in accordance with his philosophy of obedience to law. He then proceeded to take the law into his own hands and carried out his own execution, drinking a poisonous cup of hemlock. Today, Socrates's death is held up as an example of the unreliability of democratic rule and human-created laws.

Socrates is considered one of history's greatest minds

The Spanish Inquisition was ruthlessly efficient

Spanish Inquisition

SPAIN 1478

One of the biggest crimes in Medieval Europe was that of heresy, specifically heresy against the Catholic Christian god, resulting in the formation of the Spanish Inquisition. As such, throughout Spain and Europe, Jews, protestants and anyone perceived to be practicing witchcraft, sodomy, bigamy or blasphemy were tortured and then, once condemned – usually by forced confession – executed. Burning and hanging were the two most common punishments for the crime of heresy.

Crime timeline

Egypt's Sphinx

Ma'at is enforced
In ancient Egypt the concept of Ma'at, a set of rough ethical and moral laws aimed at maintaining balance within society and avoiding anarchy and chaos, is formed and represented by a goddess of the same name. **2500 BCE**

Greek law created
Greek scholar Zaleucus creates the Locrian Code, the first recognised written Greek code of law. Punishment for adultery is banding, which Zaleucus sentenced his own son to. **650 BCE**

Zaleucus created the Locrian Code

Hellenistic laws superseded
By the end of Hellenistic Greece's dominance in the mid-2nd century BCE, ancient Greece has developed the most refined legal system in the world, with trials, jurors and a range of punishments for crimes. **150 CE**

Constantine crucifies crucifixion
After 1,000 years of use as a punishment for the most serious crimes within Carthaginian and Roman society, crucifixion is finally abolished by Emperor Constantine I. **337 CE**

Trial by Ordeal
The first recorded example of Trial by Ordeal, a process where alleged criminals had to prove their innocence by passing a physical test, is written, describing how the process involved combat or body mutilation by fire or water. **590 CE**

2500 BCE | 1500 BCE | 500 BCE | 250 BCE | 0 | 200 | 400 | 600 | 800 | 1000 | 1200

Middle Kingdom expansion
From the close of ancient Egypt's Middle Kingdom, Egyptian society develops a variety of legalised punishments for crimes, ranging from caning for theft to decapitation for tomb robbing. **1664 BCE**

Egyptians were law-giving pioneers

Gortyn code laid down
The civil law of the ancient city-state of Gortyn, southern Crete, is created and laid down in the Gortyn code, dictating punishments for various civil crimes. **400 BCE**

The Gortyn code

Septimus Severus sanctions mass executions
The draconian Roman emperor, who seized power in 193 CE, oversees the executions of between 1,000 to 3,000 Christians and Jews who refuse to renounce their religious beliefs. **210 CE**

Stocks go huge
Entering the Medieval period, the use of placing convicted criminals in stocks becomes widespread, with their punishment involving being pelted with rotten fruit by others while incapacitated. **500 CE**

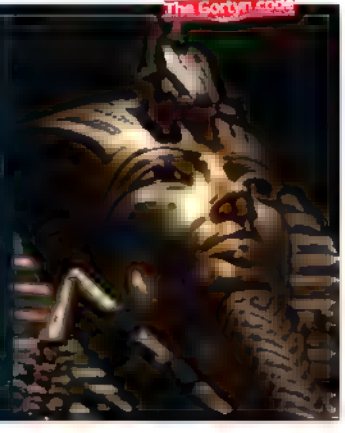
The stocks provided a very public punishment

Islamic law collated
Famous scholar al Shafi'i outlines the four sources of Islamic law in his book Al-Risala, with older tribal laws adapted. **800 CE**

Tutankhamun's tomb turned over

EGYPT 1923 BCE

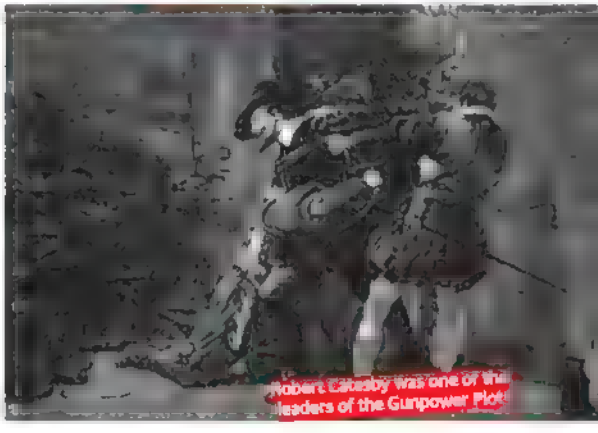
Excavated evidence suggests Tutankhamun's tomb was plundered the same year he was buried, with thieves making off with perfumes, oils and small objects of different value. The tomb was raided at least twice prior to its re-discovery by Howard Carter in 1924. The punishment for tomb raiding in ancient Egypt was death, so whoever broke in was either very brave or very foolish.



The Gunpowder Plot

ENGLAND 1605

An infamous failed assassination attempt against King James I of England by a group of English Catholics led by Robert Catesby, the Gunpowder Plot was so climactic that it is still celebrated annually in England on Bonfire night (5 November). Catesby and his men plotted to blow up the House of Lords during the State Opening of England's Parliament by igniting 36 barrels of gunpowder beneath the building. However, the plot was leaked and after capture the conspirators were convicted of high treason, with most hanged, drawn and quartered as a result.



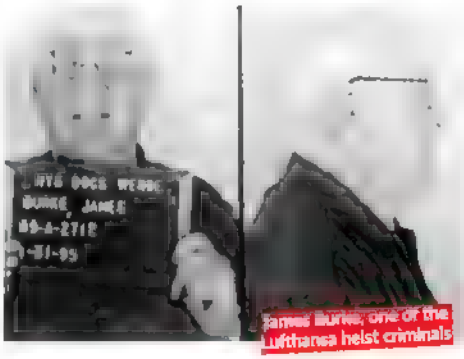
Robert Catesby was one of the leaders of the Gunpower Plot

The Whitechapel murders
ENGLAND 1888

One of history's most infamous unsolved series of crimes, the Whitechapel murders by Jack the Ripper, are now legendary, with the killer's identity never discovered and the culprit never apprehended. The Ripper killed five women in 1888, slitting their throats before disemboweling them. Various suspects as to who the Ripper was have since been postulated, but with no definitive evidence discovered it remains a mystery.

The Great Train Robbery
ENGLAND 1963

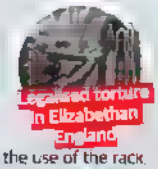
The Great Train Robbery saw a gang of 15 men attack and take control of a Royal Mail train travelling between Glasgow and London. The gang made off with a figure just over £2.6 million ($4.3 million), the equivalent of £46 million ($75 million) today. Following the raid, the gang hid out at a farmhouse. They were eventually tracked down and the evidence found there was used to hunt down and catch the majority of the gang. However, only around £400,000 ($650,000) was recovered.



THE LUFTHANSA HEIST
USA 1978

Reimagined in numerous gangster movies, including Goodfellas, the Lufthansa Heist in 1978 saw the collaborating Lucchese and Gambino crime families take more than $5 million (£3.1 million) in less than an hour from a cash and jewel-filled vault at New York's JFK airport. None of the stolen money and jewelry were ever recovered, although almost everyone involved with the heist were either later killed or captured.

- **Trial by Ordeal found guilty** From 1215 CE onward, accused criminals are typically tried by jury rather than by Ordeal **1215 CE**
- **Torture legalised** While torture has been used for centuries Elizabethan England institutionalises it, with the use of the rack, collar and iron maiden allowed on alleged criminals during interrogation. **1558 CE**



- **Australia becomes destination du jour** Following the American Revolution, Australia becomes the destination for criminals found guilty of felonies in English courts, being forcibly transported thousands of miles to endure manual labour **1788 CE**

- **Electric chair switched on** The electric chair is invented by employees of Thomas Edison and quickly adopted by the US Government as a method of execution for criminals found guilty of murder. The chair is still in use today in certain US states. **1890 CE**

- **Assassination of Conservative MP** Airey Neave, shadow minister for Northern Ireland is killed by a car bomb. The Irish National Liberation Army claims responsibility. **1979 CE**

1300 1500 1600 1700 1800 1900 1950 2000 2013

- **Hanged, drawn and quartered** From the mid-14th century, the most serious crimes in England – including anything that could be classed as high treason – is punished by the individual being hanged until half-dead, cut into quarters and then disemboweled. **1351 CE**

- **Half-hanged Smith** English house-breaker John Smith sets the record for most hanging survivals, walking away from three gallows. This earned him the nickname 'Half-hanged Smith'. **1705 CE**

- **Murder of a president** American president Abraham Lincoln is shot by stage actor John Wilkes Booth on April 14, towards the end of the American Civil War. **1865 CE**
- **Desertion made a capital crime** From the outset of World War I, desertion from the army is punishable by firing squad. From 1914 to 1920, 306 British and Commonwealth soldiers are executed for desertion. **1914 CE**
- **Hacking criminalised** Owning hacking tools on a personal computer is made illegal for the first time in Europe with those found guilty punishable with jail sentences. **2007 CE**

Butch Cassidy bank raid USA 1889

Famous US outlaw Butch Cassidy was one of the country's most successful criminals, robbing trains and ranches at will. His biggest heist was on the San Miguel Valley Bank in Telluride, Colorado. On 24 June 1889, Cassidy and three armed cowboys made off with a whopping $20,000 (£12,000), which made him one of the most wanted men in the country. Following the heist, Cassidy took refuge in the now-famous 'Hole in the Wall' hideout in Wyoming.

The Scream stolen
NORWAY 1994

The Scream is one of the world's most famous and valuable paintings, which is why there was an international outcry when it was stolen from the National Gallery of Norway in 1994. Two men, a ladder, wire cutters and 50 seconds is all it took to whisk the painting away, much to the gallery security's horror. A month later, the criminals offered it back in exchange for $1 million (£610,000). However, this was declined and a couple of months later the painting was recovered in a sting operation. The four men responsible were sentenced for theft and handed lengthy prison sentences.

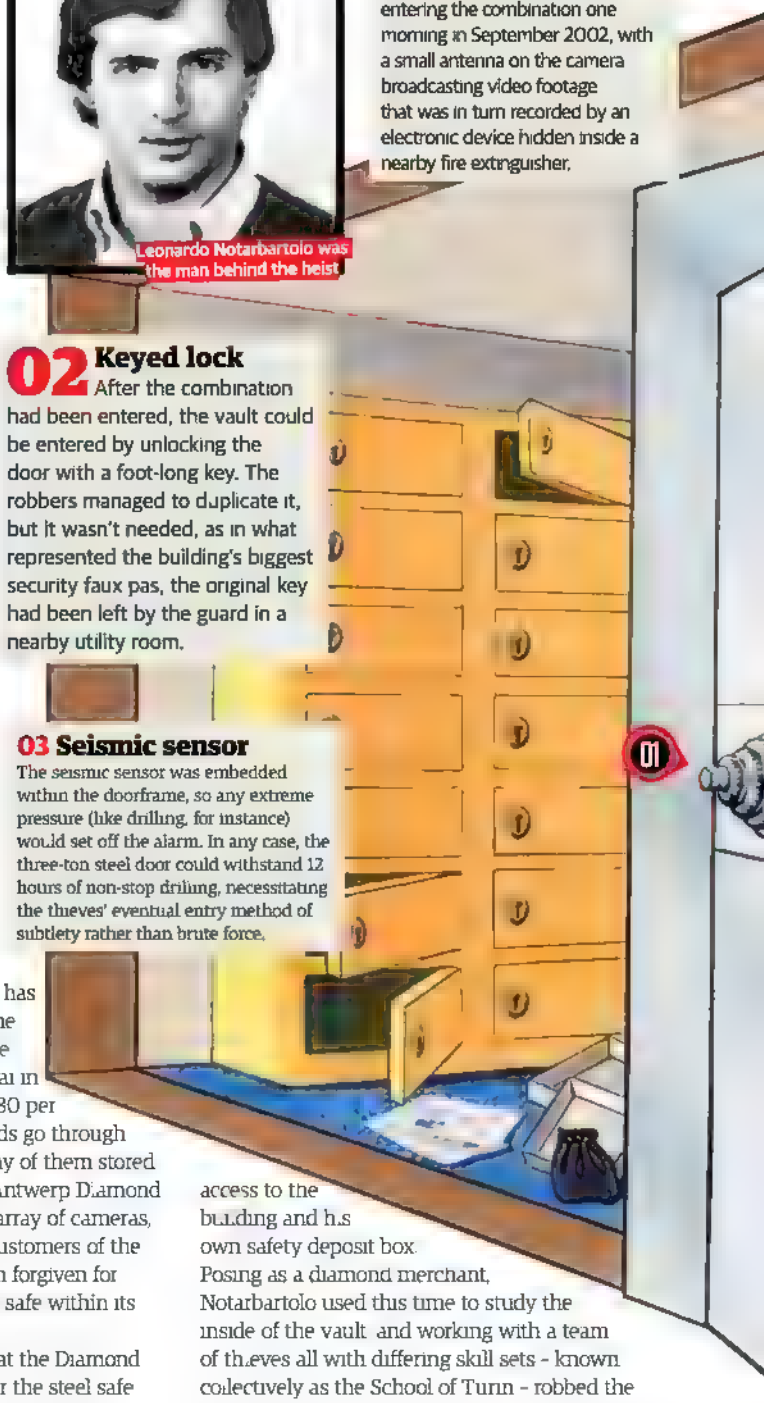
© Thinkstock, Alamy, Spitzerthwick

INSIDE HISTORY

WORLD FAMOUS DIAMOND HEIST

THE 'ROBBERY OF THE CENTURY', ANTWERP, 15-16 FEBRUARY 2003

Leonardo Notarbartolo was the man behind the heist



01 Combination dial
A fingertip-sized camera directly above captured a guard entering the combination one morning in September 2002, with a small antenna on the camera broadcasting video footage that was in turn recorded by an electronic device hidden inside a nearby fire extinguisher.

02 Keyed lock
After the combination had been entered, the vault could be entered by unlocking the door with a foot-long key. The robbers managed to duplicate it, but it wasn't needed, as in what represented the building's biggest security faux pas, the original key had been left by the guard in a nearby utility room.

03 Seismic sensor
The seismic sensor was embedded within the doorframe, so any extreme pressure (like drilling, for instance) would set off the alarm. In any case, the three-ton steel door could withstand 12 hours of non-stop drilling, necessitating the thieves' eventual entry method of subtlety rather than brute force.

How do we know this?

The diamond heist and subsequent capture of its mastermind, Leonardo Notarbartolo, made international news across all forms of media and news outlets. An interview with Notarbartolo conducted by Joshua Davis, entitled 'The Untold Story Of The World's Biggest Diamond Heist', for *Wired* magazine in 2009 while the criminal mastermind was in prison, provides extra layers of information. Interestingly, Notarbartolo contests the official story claiming over $100mn (£61mn) worth of diamonds were taken and says the true amount was closer to $20mn (£12mn), far less than what the thieves were expecting to find in the vault they robbed.

The Antwerp Diamond Center

The Belgian city of Antwerp has been described as one of the two diamond capitals in the world, the other being Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. 80 per cent of the world's uncut diamonds go through Antwerp at some stage, with many of them stored in the underground vault of the Antwerp Diamond Center building. Protected by an array of cameras, sensors and solid obstacles, the customers of the Diamond Center would have been forgiven for believing that their deposits were safe within its walls. They were sadly mistaken.

On 16 February 2003, workers at the Diamond Center came into work to discover the steel safe door ajar and the safe itself ransacked, with the remaining contents of the various safety-deposit boxes strewn all over the floor. Of the 160 boxes, 123 had been completely emptied, with a staggering $100 million (£61 million) worth of diamonds going missing.

As it turned out, the thieves had spent years planning the heist. Leonardo Notarbartolo, the man who organised the heist, had rented an office in the Diamond Center in 2000, which included 24-hour access to the building and his own safety deposit box. Posing as a diamond merchant, Notarbartolo used this time to study the inside of the vault and working with a team of thieves all with differing skill sets - known collectively as the School of Turin - robbed the place on 15 February 2003 before removing the security footage to conceal their identities.

Ironically considering the intricate level of planning that went into the heist, Notarbartolo was caught after circumstantial evidence he had carelessly dumped by a roadside was discovered, linking him to the robbery. He was given a ten-year jail term, with his accomplices receiving similar sentences, but much of the diamond haul is yet to be discovered.

10 Security camera
This camera monitored all entrants into the vault, beaming the footage back to the guard room. Once the thieves had entered the room outside the vault, they covered the security cameras with black plastic bags so their activities would not be monitored.

09 Magnetic sensor
A pair of metal plates on the door and wall to the right formed a magnetic field. The thieves used a slab of aluminium affixed with heavy-duty, double-sided tape, attached it to the two metallic plates and unscrewed the bolts keeping them together. This allowed the magnetic field to be moved away from the door without breaking it.

08 Light sensor
In addition to the motion and heat sensors, alarms detecting light were present in the vault so any unwarranted access would be immediately noticeable. To get around this, after bypassing the vault security system's main inbound and outbound wires, they covered the light sensor with sticky tape.

07 Keypad
The only way to disable the magnetic field protecting the vault door was to enter the code into the keypad. Ultimately, the thieves didn't need to use this, thanks to successfully moving the magnetic field away from the door rather than deactivating it.

06 Combination boxes
Once inside the vault, the thieves used a hand-cranked drill fitted with a thin sheet of metal, which was then jammed into a lock and cranked before pulling open the door and removing its contents. They worked in the dark, only switching on their torches to reposition the drill.

05 Heat and motion sensor
The day before the heist, Notarbartolo entered the vault. The guard was used to his visits, so he didn't pay close attention. He sprayed the sensor with an aerosol of hairspray so it wouldn't be able to detect temperature fluctuations. On the day of the heist they covered it with a Styrofoam box while disabling the vault's security systems.

04 Locked steel grate
During business hours the vault door was left open, leaving a steel grate to prevent access. Once the magnetic field had been circumvented, the door unlocked and the password combination entered, all that remained was picking the lock on the grate, with the door being propped open with two cans of paint found in the store room.

© Ian Jackson/The Art Agency...orbis

CUSTODIAN HELMET

A HARD HAT FOR A HARD JOB

The helmet was based on the German pickelhelm – a spiked helmet worn by German infantrymen – and was introduced in 1863, replacing the earlier 'Peeler' hat. This helmet had the officer's personal number and divisional letter in the centre and was backed with a leather insert. The custodian was topped with the royal crown, later changed to the Brunswick star and was made from cork and faced with fabric.

WHISTLE

USED TO CALL FOR BACKUP AND TO ATTRACT ATTENTION

With no radio or telephone, policing the dark, dank streets of London could be a dangerous profession and the whistle was designed to minimise the risk, a way of asking for backup. The earliest Victorian police officers actually used a wooden rattle but it was large and cumbersome and was replaced by the whistle by the mid-19th century.

LANTERN

FOR WHEN YOU REALLY NEEDED TO SEE IN THE DARK

Bobbies carried a bull's-eye-type lantern, which hung from their tunic's belt. The lantern sported a convex lens and ran on kerosene. It was capable of being detached and held by a swing handle if desired up to head height if something required more in-depth investigation at night.

TRUNCHEON

GRAB YOUR BILLY CLUBS, BOYS

Victorian policemen were armed with truncheons, one-foot long shafts of wood with a rope-bound handle. They were nicknamed billy clubs and acted as the policeman's warrant card when gaining entry to a property or dealing with the public. The attached royal crest indicated their authority in the eyes of the government and crown. This crest was always removed if the truncheon was decommissioned.

FLARED COLLAR

DESIGNED TO PROTECT AGAINST GARROTING

When Robert Peel founded the first police force in England nicknamed the 'Peelers', they wore blue swallow tail coats with high collars, which helped prevent the officers from being garrotted by criminals. The tailcoat was replaced by a more modern tunic with just one set of brass buttons, but the collar still survived, saving many officers' lives.

CLOAK

A BARRIER TO THE ELEMENTS

While not standardised, many Victorian police officers – especially those undertaking their walking beats at night – wore a cloak over their tunic. These tended to be two-tiered, with a wider top half covering the shoulders and upper arms, and a longer lower half extending down to the knees. They were fastened below the neck with a metal chain and were black or dark blue.

FIREARM

FIRE ONLY AS A LAST RESORT

Victorian officers were armed with a flintlock pistol and later a revolver. Victorian police officers were ordered to only use their firearm as a last resort, with non-lethal forms of incapacitation of criminals strongly encouraged.

HANDCUFFS

ESSENTIAL TOOL FOR RESTRAINING

Victorian beat officers were issued with a set of handcuffs similar in design to the ones used by modern-day police forces. The handcuffs were initially made from chunky iron (although later steel varieties entered use) and were of the hinged variety.

THE Anatomy of

A VICTORIAN POLICEMAN

WALKING THE BEAT WITH A VICTORIAN BOBBY, GREAT BRITAIN, 1880S

© Ian Jackson/The Art Agency

As seen on TV

Collect all 93 UK Circulation Commemorative Coins for just £9.99

with the official Change Checker Album

Coins shown are for illustrative purposes only

FREE £2 Coin!

Order before 15th February to receive your mystery £2 commemorative coin ABSOLUTELY FREE!

CHANGE CHECKER

Discover the treasure in your pocket ...

ORDER TODAY
08448 26 20 26
www.westminsterorders.com/TFP800P0

FREE £2 coin could be any circulating £2 coin from the decimal era. If for any reason you wish to return your album, please include your £2 coin otherwise you will be charged for the coin.

Each coin in your pocket is a potential treasure waiting to be discovered.

There are ninety-three £2, £1 and 50p designs circulating in the UK ***but very few people know about them.***

They tell the story of Britain – our history, our culture – even our sporting successes. What's more, some of the coins you have passed over the counter to pay for a newspaper or sandwich may actually have been **genuinely scarce**

Enjoy creating a lasting heirloom

Now you can collect them all with the **official Change Checker Album**. For just £9.99 (+p&p), you'll have space to collect all 93 coins directly from your change. That way you can enjoy collecting the treasure in your pocket today and **create a lasting heirloom forever.**

Plus you can go online to the Change Checker website to find out more about each of your coins and their history, and even discover other Change Checkers who you can swap your coins with.

FREE Coin when you order today

If you order your Change Checker Album today, we'll also send you your **mystery commemorative £2 Coin** to start your collection.

Simply call **08448 26 20 26** or log on to **www.westminsterorders.com/TFP800P0**

Calls cost 5.10pence from BT Unlimited Weekend Plan. Mobile and other providers charges may vary. Calls may be recorded

© 2013 The Westminster Collection a trading division of 288 Group Limited Registered No 2000413 Russell House, Oxford Road, Bournemouth, BH8 8EX.

The Change Checker Collector's Album

Post to: The Westminster Collection : Freepost RSCR-JHCL-HBGT PO Box 4848 POOLE BH12 9GB

☑ Please send me **my Official Change Checker Collector's Album(s) ordered below.**

☐ Change Checker Album(s) @ £9.99 each (max 3)		**Order Ref: TFP/800P/0**
☐ Tick to include my Free Commemorative £2 Coin	FREE	
Postage and packing	£2.99	
TOTAL		

I enclose my cheque/P.O. for payable to The Westminster Collection

Please charge my Mastercard/Visa on despatch. Expires. /

Your credit card will not be charged until your album is despatched

Signed

(All orders must be signed and are subject to acceptance and status)

Telephone No: ( )

Email

(Please help us to keep you up-to-date with selected special offers.)

Mr/Mrs/Miss

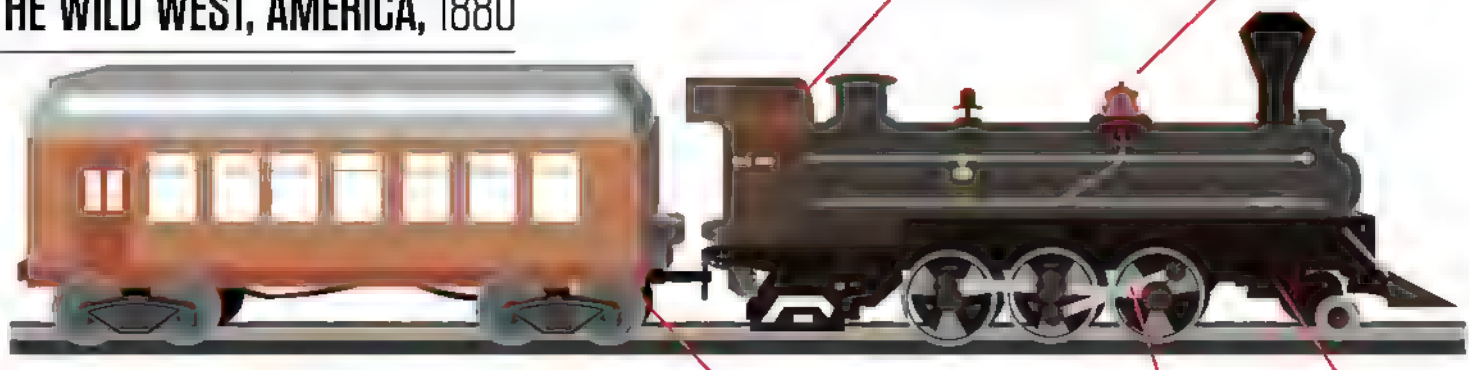
Address

Postcode

How to ROB A TRAIN

THE WILD WEST, AMERICA, 1880

THE TRAIN



Train crew
The train crew would typically consist of a driver, a fireman and an expressman. The expressman would be armed and guard the car.

Train
While there were many types of train during this period, larger engines tended to be the ones that were robbed the most because of the valuables they were carrying.

Speed
As trains could reach a top speed far superior to horses most robberies took place while the train was not in motion.

Express car
The express car was where the train's valuables were held, including weapons and precious items locked away in on-board safes.

Transport
In the Wild West of the 1880s the railway network across America was being established, connecting major towns and cities.

ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT

COLT REVOLVER
USA, 1872

Popular among outlaws because of its reliability and stopping power, the Colt .45 was simple to operate and easy to maintain.

MUSTANG HORSE
USA, 1700'S

Strong, hardy and fast, the breed of horse popularly known as the 'mustang' was used by lawman and outlaw alike.

DYNAMITE
ENGLAND, 1867

This was revolutionary in the Wild West as a portable form of explosive, which could quickly put a big hole in a solid object – like a safe.

DISGUISES
WORLDWIDE, 19TH CENTURY

Train robbers and thieves in general protected their identity from law enforcement throughout the period. Neckerchiefs to cover the face were very popular.

BOWIE KNIFE
USA, 1830

The bowie knife was popular among outlaws during this period as a valuable tool and a weapon. It could be used for picking locks and cutting through packages.

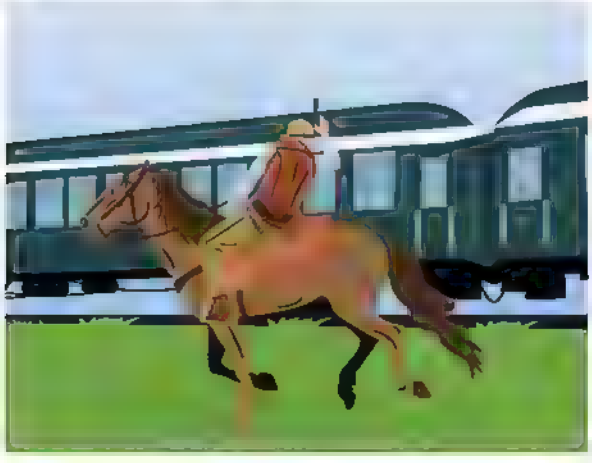
The history of the Wild West was punctuated by the tales of lawless desperados breaking into banks and holding up runaway trains. This lawlessness was a product of the perceived freedom from central authority in the western settlements of America and the vulnerable position of trains as they travelled through open plains. Trains were a popular target because of the valuable goods they carried, often from the rich East-coast cities to the Wild West. Saddle up your horse and go make your fortune.

01 Assemble a posse
A train robber is only as good as the people around him acting as his posse. The robber needs people he can trust, who don't have too many moral scruples and won't get greedy or sell their fellow desperados out to the authorities. Butch Cassidy tended to work with his own gang of loyal friends – you'll need people like that.

02 Get the right train
The best trains to hold up are the payroll carriages running federal money to soldiers and federal employees to the settlements of the Wild West. Find out when the next payroll train departs by checking schedules and listening in on conversations at local saloons, then plan how you are going to intercept its route.

How not to rob a train

The Baxter's curve train robbery in Sanderson, Texas in 1912 went down in history as one of the worst ever attempts to rob a train. Ben Kilpatrick, originally a member of Butch Cassidy's Wild Bunch, and Ole Hobek boarded the Southern Pacific train in Dryden, Texas and held up its crew. Hobek then led one of the crewmembers, David A. Trousdale, to the express car in order to de-couple its valuable contents from the rest of the train. Hobek wasn't keeping an eye on Trousdale, though, which allowed him to conceal an ice mallet in his jacket. As Hobek bent down to pick up the packages in the express carriage, Trousdale jumped him and beat him to death. Trousdale then armed himself with Hobek's gun and waited for Kilpatrick to come down to the express car to find out what was going on. Kilpatrick eventually came to the entrance to the carriage and when he put his head through the door, Trousdale shot him in the face.



03 Board the train

Most train robberies do not take place while the train is in motion. The vast majority of robbers stop the train first and then board it. However, if time is of the essence, get some fast horses, find a part of track where the train will have to slow down, run the horses close to the express car and board with guns drawn.

04 Take 'em alive

It's not advantageous to any train robber to kill anyone. Dead train drivers can't drive the train and dead passengers can't reveal where the expensive valuables are kept. Keep your guns drawn and use them to intimidate the passengers and train crew but at the same time keep a cool head and your bullets in your chamber.

05 Crack the safe

The safe is generally in the express car, with a federal agent in charge of protecting it. While the agent is almost always armed, if you take the train by surprise he won't have time to defend himself. Disarm him and, with a gun levelled at his head, tell him to open the safe. If he refuses you might have to crack it yourself.

06 Escape

The best train robbery is a quick train robbery; contrary to popular belief, the Wild West is not lawless. Local law enforcement is around and it's armed to the teeth. Gather up the loot, get the driver to stop the train and ride your horses hard to a safe house. It's probably best to keep hidden for the next few days at least.

INFAMOUS ROBBERS

JESSE JAMES

ADAIR, IOWA, 1847-1882

Jesse James was arguably the most famous train robber. On one robbery, him and his gang wore Klu Klux Klan disguises and stole $51,000 in Adair, Iowa.

BUTCH CASSIDY

NEW MEXICO, 1866-1908

As part of his gang known as the Wild Bunch, Cassidy robbed a train in New Mexico, resulting in a famous shoot-out with the law.

WILLIAM L CARLISLE

WYOMING, 1890-1964

Known as Robin Hood of the Rails, Carlisle was one of the last train robbers of the Wild West. He would reimburse guards for lost tips during his robberies.

BURT ALVORD

COCHISE, ARIZONA, 1866-1910

Originally a lawman, he left that life behind to rob trains in 1899, making him a wanted man throughout the region.

© Corbis

Day in the life

ALCATRAZ PRISON GUARD

KEEPING AN EYE ON AMERICA'S MOST DANGEROUS PRISONERS, ALCATRAZ ISLAND, SAN FRANCISCO BAY, 1933-63

Working in a prison can be a tense job at the best of times, but when the prison is on Alcatraz Island, purportedly the most secure penitentiary in the world and home to the notorious likes of Al Capone, Alvin Karpis and George 'Machine Gun' Kelly, this description becomes even more apt.

Yet life as a prison guard on Alcatraz was much like in any other prison, with rigid routines to adhere to and stringent checks to be made on all aspects of prison life. There was roughly one guard for every three prisoners on Alcatraz – much higher than most other prisons, where the ratio was about 1:12. With USA's most dangerous criminals in close proximity, the employees always had to be on their guard.

1 START OF THE DAY

If assigned to an early shift, the officer would wake up at around 6am in their home they shared with their family. With Alcatraz being so remote and inaccessible, prison officers lived on the island itself, often taking their families with them. Any food and grocery shopping had to be purchased during trips to the mainland. The only facility on the island itself was a small convenience store and post office

4 ROLL CALL

The roll call took place between the front of the main prison building and the lighthouse. The primary purpose was to check whether the roster of officers was sufficient to carry out the tasks waiting for them in the day ahead, and as such was relatively informal. Unlike other prisons, no time was dedicated to the inspection of the prison officers' attire

7 START OF SHIFT

After roll call, the officers would be assigned their tasks for the day, after which their shift would commence. Each shift was eight hours long, and would generally be spent on one particular job; one day might be spent in the Treatment Unit, where the convicts were fed, and another might see them assigned to the cell house. Officers were rotated from one job post to another every three months to ensure that they did not become too comfortable and complacent in their roles.

Prisoners returning to their cells in C-Block

1 COUNT IN THE CELLS

In order to keep track of the prisoners, regular head counts were made during the day. All in all, 13 official counts were made during the day, in addition to the six verification counts that were made by the shop foremen

2 SUPERVISED WORK

At other times, guards would work directly with some of the convicts who were considered lower security threats and so suitable for low-level work. These would generally be in areas like laundry, gardening and labour or in the tailors, cobblers or model shop

3 MESS HALL DUTY

Guards were assigned to watch and monitor the prisoners while they filed into the mess hall for dinner. The guards were expected to supervise the serving and seating of the assembled convicts, give the signals for them to start and stop eating and present their cutlery on the table in front of them to ensure that nothing had been taken as a potential weapon. Prisoners were only allowed 20 minutes for dinner.

4 LIGHTS OUT

After a final count at 9.30pm, the final lights-out call was made for the prisoners. This moment essentially functioned as the signal for those working the day shift to go off duty, after which they were free to do what they wanted with their spare time. With the prisoners locked away, the officers could relax for the first time during the day

5 DINNER

Food for the officers on Alcatraz was not exactly gourmet, but was acceptable, especially after an eight hour shift guarding some of the world's most notorious criminals. One example of a meal was stewed beans with homemade bread and butter. The officers ate in the Mule Barn building, where the general rule of conduct was to be quiet, as officers on different shifts would have been trying to sleep at various hours of the day

How do we know this?

The book *Alcatraz Screw: My Years As A Guard in America's Most Notorious Prison* by George H Gregory, who worked there for 15 years between 1947 and 1962, provided a rich source of information. A riveting first-hand account of the everyday reality of working on the Rock, it details the daily routine and tasks that came hand in hand with a job on Alcatraz, as well as some truly chilling stories regarding some of its most notorious inmates. In addition, *AlcatrazHistory.com*, put together by Ocean View Publishing, provided a useful hour-by-hour breakdown of a day in the life of an Alcatraz prison guard. The website helped supply a basic framework for the information given in Gregory's account of life in the world's most notorious prison.

© Corbis; Mary Evans

Top 5 facts

DICK TURPIN

INFAMOUS HIGHWAY ROBBER
ESSEX, ENGLAND, 1706-1739

DICK TURPIN
English, 1706-1739

Brief Bio

A farmer's son, Dick Turpin was born in Essex in southeast England, where he worked as a butcher's apprentice before he and his gang gained notoriety for attacking rich farmhouses in Essex. After a brief spell as a highway robber, Turpin escaped to York where he adopted the guise of a gentleman before being caught and executed.

01 He was caught shooting a chicken

Though he had committed numerous crimes during his life, including murder and robbery, he finally met his comeuppance when he casually shot and killed a prize fowl owned by his landlord. When he appeared at court, the truth of his past life as an outlaw quickly came to light.

02 Turpin started out as a rustler

He is famed for being a dashing and daring robber, but Turpin actually started life as a cattle rustler and began his criminal career by stealing two oxen. Comically, he was caught in the act and was forced to flee to escape certain arrest.

03 He was only briefly a highway robber

Though most interpretations of his life have characterised him as the dandy highway robber, he and his gang mainly broke into farmhouses. Still, he did terrorise the roads of Epping Forest for a while, before returning to his more familiar pastime of rustling.

04 He didn't ride from Westminster to York

Legend has it that Turpin rode from Westminster to York in only 24 hours, but this has been proved to be untrue. This story is based on a journey made by another criminal, John Nevison, who rode over 190 miles (305 km) in under 20 hours to provide an alibi for a robbery he committed in Kent.

05 He was executed

On the day of his execution, Turpin was led through the streets of York, bowing nobly to the watching crowds. He was so keen to end his life in pomp and ceremony that he even hired mourners to follow him to the scaffold, where he promptly leapt unaided to his death.

© Look and Learn

World of Animals

The new magazine from the makers of HOW IT WORKS

Order your copy today at **imaginesubs.co.uk**

On sale 27 December

Available from all good newsagents and supermarkets

facebook.com/worldofanimalsmag twitter.com/@WorldAnimalsMag

www.animalanswers.co.uk

Available on the following platforms

Heroes & Villains

Marcus Tullius Cicero

Strategist, philosopher and man of the people, Cicero's dramatic career coincided with the fall of a republic and the rise of an empire

Written by Chris Fenton

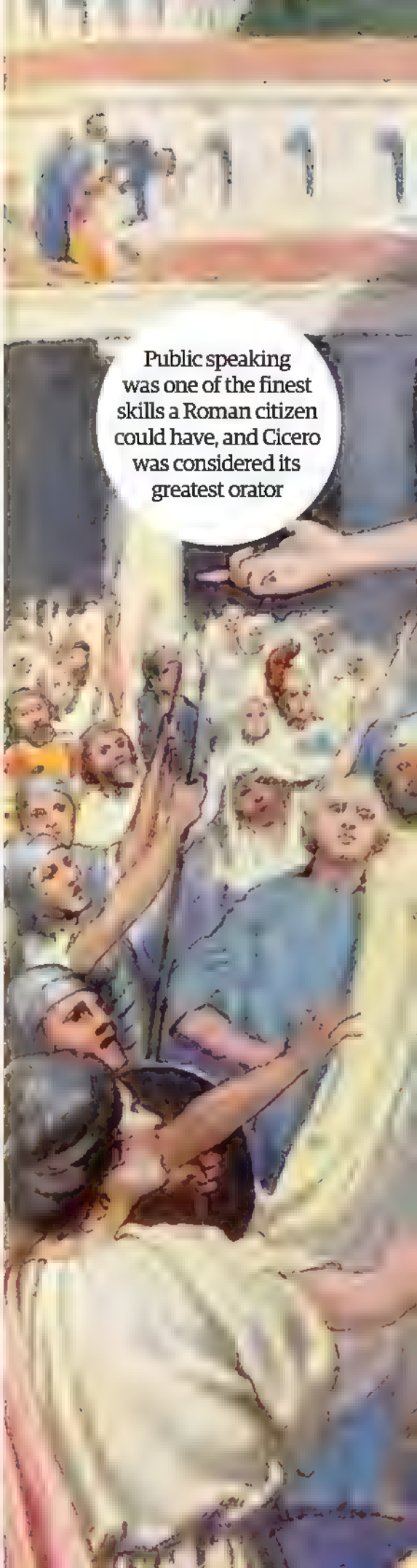
Marcus Tullius Cicero peeked out of his covered litter to check if he was being followed. He was sweating, his heart was pounding and he looked nervous. It was not the first time he was on the run from the authorities. The Roman Republic he had dedicated his whole life to protect had betrayed him once again and this time there would be no repreve. Out of the corner of his eye, he saw two armed soldiers strolling towards the slaves carrying the litter. They called him by name and told the slaves to stop; Cicero knew he had only moments to live. He regarded the men solemnly and declared "There is nothing proper about what you are doing, soldier, but do try to kill me properly." He bowed his head out and waited for the killing blow

Cicero was more than aware of his enemies. At the consular elections in 63 BCE Catiline plotted to murder his opponents in the night and underneath his toga

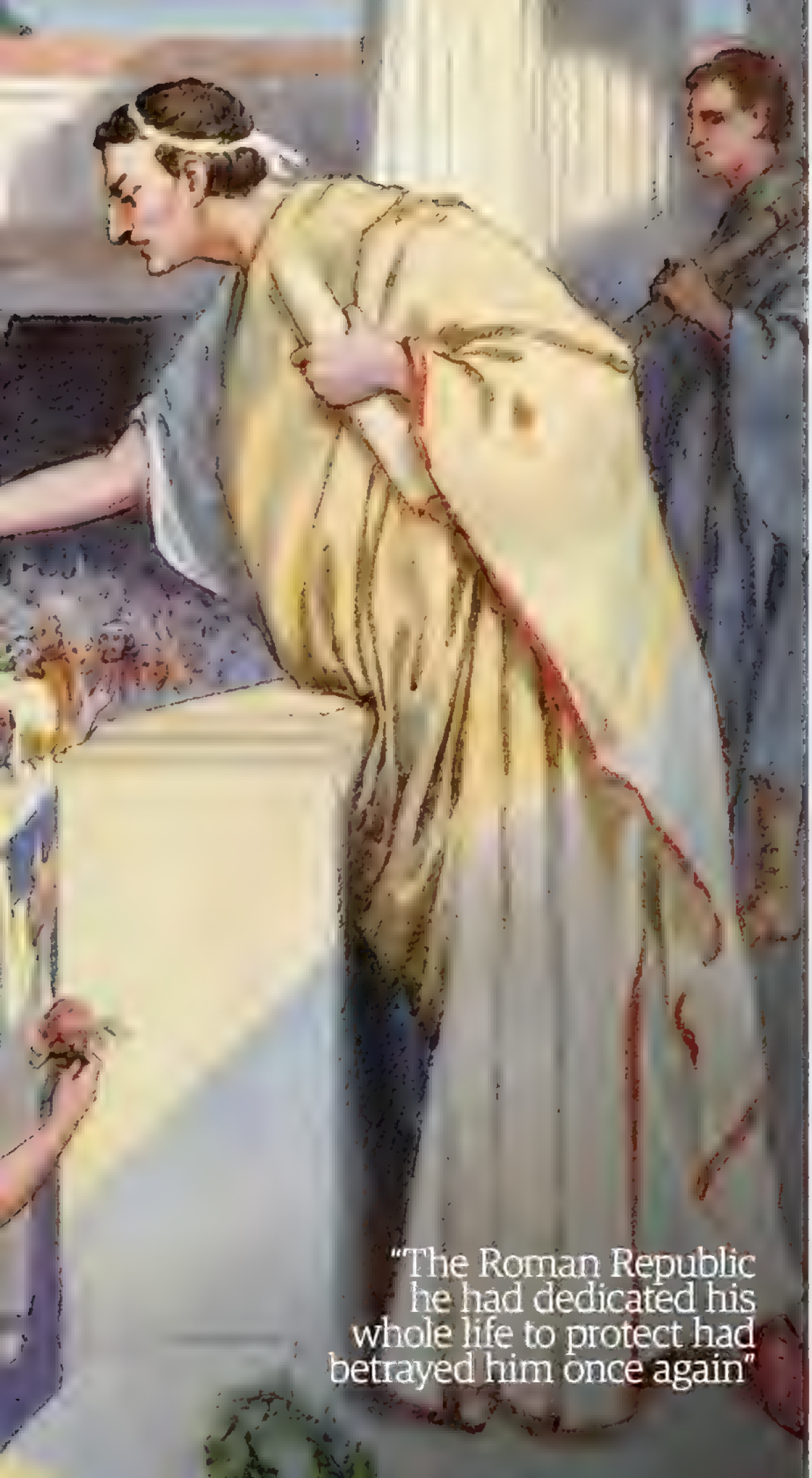
With no influence within the senate, forum or any connections to the patronage network of the Patrician, Cicero's family languished in obscurity before he came of age. Residing in the town of Arpinum, Cicero attended schools to improve his lot and his father insisted he should make something of himself within Roman politics. He learned Greek and studied the philosophies and teachings of Plato and Archimedes; in Roman culture this knowledge was required to be considered capable of leading Rome's political and military elite. He was a diligent student, even visiting Greece to discover the secrets of their philosophical ideals. As he gained a reputation in the provinces as a skilled litigator, he also wooed the crowds gathered at public court hearings with his oratory skills, and became famous as a man who could win any legal case he took on.

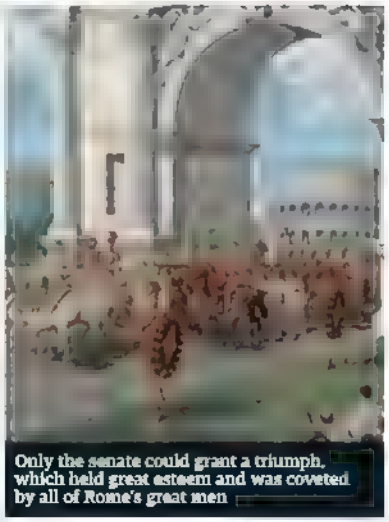
Representing landowners and provincial merchants gave Cicero a firm understanding of the law but wasn't enough for his burgeoning ego. Therefore, when he was asked to prosecute a case involving Gaius Verres, a greedy Roman governor who had oppressed and intimidated the people of Sicily, he saw an opportunity to ascent to the place where he had always wanted to go; Rome. He was taking an awful risk though as Verres had hired Rome's foremost lawyer to defend him, Quintus Hortalus. If the young and inexperienced Cicero lost against him he would be finished. He diligently prepared his case, spending hours working on every inflection of his voice and action of his body to make sure he came across as the best orator ever heard. He knew only the best would do, as the case was going to the Forum in Rome, the centre of imperial Roman justice.

The preparation paid off. Not only did he win the case, he was guaranteed a place as a magistrate in the Roman cursus honorum, one of the most respected levels of government. He continued to fly through the ranks of public office, thriving on the adventure that encompassed life while working high-profile cases. He fell in love with the glamour of addressing the people from the plinths of the Roman Forum.



Public speaking was one of the finest skills a Roman citizen could have, and Cicero was considered its greatest orator




Only the senate could grant a triumph, which held great esteem and was coveted by all of Rome's great men

Life in Cicero's time

Rome the conqueror

While Rome's power was not at its height during Cicero's lifetime, it was still a dominant force in the Italian peninsula and beyond. Its influence stretched from the muddy fields of Gaul, modern-day France, to the grain-rich plains of the Egyptian Nile.

Slaves and free Romans

Roman society was based around the distinction between Romans who had the right to own property and influence the political system and slaves who had no rights at all. Slaves were used in every part of Roman life, from domestic servants to labourers in mines. As was expected for a man of his standing, Cicero himself owned a number of slaves.

The Republic

Before the great emperors of Rome stood the Roman Republic, a political system dominated by the senate and its consul leaders. While the Republic looked democratic and free on the surface, in reality only the elite were allowed to serve and the whole political process was shamelessly corrupt.

Class struggle

Class division was split between the Patrician, the ruling elite, and the Plebeian, all other Romans. While the ruling families maintained control over the senate throughout this period they lived in constant fear of the ferocity and fickleness of the plebeian 'mob', which had to be appeased regularly.

The gods and man

Religion played an important part in the daily lives of Romans and their pantheon of gods and goddesses were seen to have a direct influence on the lives of Rome's citizens. Strange cults and colourful religious ceremonies were a constant feature of the bustling city streets.

Marc Antony's oration over the body of Julius Caesar, both of whom were enemies of Cicero

Pax Romana

Despite Rome's apparent stability throughout this period, the Roman Republic and its political system was going through immense upheaval. The senate was becoming unable to curtail the ambitions of powerful Roman leaders who commanded vast armies. One of them, Gaius Julius Caesar, had been ruling Rome as joint consul with Pompey Magnus but feared a plot concocted by Pompey to overthrow his authority within the senate. In short order, their conflict threw the whole of Rome and its dependencies into a disruptive conflict that pitted Romans against Romans. As this was happening the senate struggled to maintain a role for itself within the city and was constantly being overruled by men like Caesar who was holding a lethal trump card – an army capable of sacking the city. Public officials often found themselves behind developing events. When Caesar was assassinated, Mark Antony became the dominant force within the city. When Caesar's adopted son Octavian, who also called himself Caesar, took over the city and Antony fled, Antony's supporters found themselves on shifting sand. For senators like Cicero, this was a dangerous time and picking the wrong side during these insurrections could spell doom if the opposing side regained power. There was also the constant threat of political assassination, a method not uncommon in Roman society for removing political enemies.

Cicero reached the peak of any Roman's career when he was elected consul, the highest office attainable. As consul he utilised his oratory skills to put down a conspiracy of rebellion against him, convincing the mob to condemn the men involved as traitors. He condemned them to death, reasoning that the situation was dangerous enough and that the tide of public opinion swelling around him would be protection against not affording the accused a trial. Declaring his verdict he spoke one word to the crowd, "Vixerunt" ("They are dead"), which was received by rapturous applause from the people. In reality this was a risky tactic; in the cruel political game of Rome, operating outside the law in public office spawned enemies and sure enough, when his tenure ended, a group of political enemies introduced a law punishing those who had condemned Roman citizens without trial. Cicero had been outmanoeuvred. The mob had turned against him, the new consul wasn't sympathetic and he was exiled.

Cicero's dramatic rise to power had been cut short. He wrote at length to his noble friend Titus Atticus about his woe: "Your pleas have prevented me from committing suicide. But what is there to live for? Don't blame me for complaining. My afflictions surpass any of those you have heard earlier." He couldn't see how he would ever command power again.

So, in 57 BCE, when Roman leadership changed once again and Cicero was given a reprieve it was as if his prayers had been answered. He boarded a ship from his Greek residence and prepared to re-enter the cut-throat world of Roman politics.

All was not well in the Republic on his return home. Political upheaval revolving around two friends turned rivals, Pompey Magnus and Julius Caesar, was creating dangerous divisions within the already fractious Roman political system. While Caesar courted Cicero's favour, looking for a respectable man to back his grievousness against Pompey, Cicero decided to play safe. If he'd learned anything during his years in exile it was to back a winner when he saw one. Pompey had more men, more support in the senate and seemed to hold the support of Rome's mob. He threw in his lot with Pompey as the man who would see the Republic restored and reward Cicero with power and influence once Caesar was defeated. However, fate played a cruel trick on Cicero. Defying the odds, Caesar defeated Pompey in open battle and again Cicero was exiled from Rome, along with Pompey's dilapidated forces.

For the second time Cicero was on the run from his homeland and his future looked bleak. His return to Rome came after Caesar, looking to shore up a very unsettled senate, decided to pardon him. Instead of punishment, Caesar praised Cicero, commenting on his oratory skills: "It is more important to have greatly extended the frontiers of the Roman spirit than the frontiers of the Roman empire." But flattery did not sway Cicero over to Caesar's side and what he found when he returned to Rome affronted

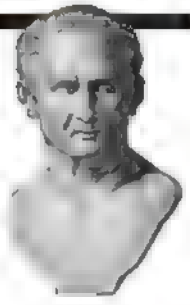
Defining moment
Gaius Verres' case 75 BCE

One of the most celebrated cases of Cicero's career is his prosecution of the corrupt Sicilian governor Gaius Verres, a tyrant who brutalised his Roman subjects. After hearing Cicero's reputation as an excellent orator, the Sicilians petition Cicero to prosecute Verres on their behalf. After some debate, Cicero takes the case to Rome and promptly wins against Verres's expensive lawyer through his superb oratory skills. With the gathered crowd cheering whenever Cicero speaks his relationship with the people is sealed. This early success is the foundation upon which his political career is built.

Timeline

106 BCE

Birth of Cicero
Cicero is born into an equestrian order family in Arpinum, outside of Rome. While his father is a man of means, Cicero's family is not considered part of the ruling elite.
106 BCE



Precursor
Cicero joins the army as a precursor under the leadership of Strabo and Sulla. He serves during the War of Allies between the Republic and several Italian cities.
90 BCE

Philosopher
Cicero becomes fascinated by Greek philosophy. Roman society dictates that knowledge of Greek is mandatory for those in power.
87 BCE

Praetor of Rome
Cicero becomes a Praetor and a famous magistrate of the law. Praetor is also a military position but he shows very limited interest in the military.
66 BCE

Real power
Cicero is made consul of the Roman senate, one of the most powerful positions in Rome. The consul is leader of the senate and has full veto power. While consul, he uncovers a conspiracy to overthrow him by Catiline. The decision to condemn the traitors to death without a trial will come back to haunt him.
63 BCE

The assassination of Julius Caesar, 44 BCE. Caesar tried to bring Cicero into his inner circle while he was working within the political system

His works were discovered in the 14th century and influenced how the Renaissance rulers governed

"He had made another critical error by trusting the young man who was now calling himself Augustus Caesar"

his sensibilities. Caesar was ruling the Republic like a tyrant, changing tradition to fit his own political needs.

Unsurprisingly, Caesar made many enemies and, in yet another explosion of ruthless violence, Caesar was murdered on the senate floor during the religious festival of the Ides of March. Cicero decided to play this latest development more subtly than the Pompey fiasco. He neither supported nor condemned the assassination in public, although he wrote a private letter to one of Brutus's supporters, saying; 'How I could wish that you had invited me to that glorious banquet on the Ides of March.'

With Caesar dispatched and Brutus's conspirators looking for a man to rally around, Cicero once again became a man of power and influence, perhaps only bested in this respect by Mark Antony. Antony's affiliation with Caesar was well known, and a source of intense jealously for less-connected men like Cicero. Cicero regarded Antony as little more than a political opportunist, profiting on the death of his master. He publicly denounced him, writing orations against him and making scandalous remarks about his sexuality to friends. But Antony held an army at his command, which outweighed the mere words of a skilled orator. It appeared as if Antony was set to stay in Rome until Octavian, Julius's adopted son and heir, returned to the capital. Cicero supported him as a liberator from the brutish Antony, claiming that he was a man of honour, and endorsed his fight against Antony. In a pitched battle, Octavian defeated Antony, who fled to Gaul. Again, Cicero made a judgement call and assessed that Antony was finished, his flight from Rome retribution for his brash behaviour. But Cicero was proved wrong once more. Surprisingly Octavian made peace with Antony in order to steal power away from the hostile senate and, along with Marcus Lepidus, declared a Triumvirate – a type of military junta – to rule Rome.

Cicero did his best to swallow his burning resentment at the destruction of the Republic and ingratiate himself with Octavian, but it was too little, too late. He had made another critical error in judgement by trusting the young man who was now calling himself Augustus Caesar. Suddenly designated a public enemy, Cicero faced two options; stay and face a show trial or run. The man who was later described by Quintilian as 'eloquence himself', bolted into the night, with nothing but the toga on his back, hunted by the people he helped bring to power. As he raced for the safety of Greece, one of his brother's slaves betrayed him to Mark Antony's spy and he was apprehended within striking distance of the coast.

In the great marketplace of Rome two armed soldiers strolled up to the front doors of the Forum carrying a large, heavy sack. They opened it and pulled out its contents, a dismembered head and two hands covered in congealed blood. One of the men began attaching the head to the door, forcing the rotting jaw open and pulling out the tongue, pinning it across the putrid skin to make the mouth look as if it was speaking. In a final grotesque display, Cicero's last address to the people was nailed to the Forum for all to see.

Defining moment

Betrayed by Octavian
November 43 BCE

Octavian Caesar, the adopted son and heir apparent to Gaius Julius Caesar, returns to Rome. Cicero makes overtures of friendship to the young man now calling himself Caesar. Mark Antony is forced to flee the city into the mountains. This is a short-lived victory for Cicero and the Republic, as Octavian is unwilling to share power with the 'fools' in the senate. He betrays Cicero and makes a separate deal with Antony. With Octavian and Antony now working together, Cicero finds himself out of favour and isolated.

43 BCE

Exiled
After falling out of favour with the new consul and his tribunes, Cicero is forced into exile and retreats to Greek Thessalonica, falling into deep depression.
58 BCE

Return to Rome
Invited to return to Rome by Titus Milo, Cicero eagerly accepts the opportunity to revive his political career in the Republic and returns to Rome.
57 BCE

Outlaw
Cicero finds himself on the wrong side of public opinion by backing Pompey rather than his rival, the popular Gaius Julius Caesar. He is subsequently forced to flee from the city with Pompey's soldiers.
49 BCE

Ides of March
Caesar is murdered on the senate floor by Brutus, a Pompey supporter. While Cicero is not present at the assassination he privately supports Brutus's actions.
44 BCE

Cicero vs. Mark Antony
In the following power vacuum, Cicero and Mark Antony become Rome's dominant figures. Unfortunately, there is little love lost between the two and they frequently clash.
February 43 BCE

Death of an orator
After seeing that Octavian Caesar and Mark Antony have betrayed him and he is now on their 'most wanted' list Cicero flees Rome but is caught and summarily executed.
December 43 BCE

©Corbis, Alamy

Almost a week after the initial eruption the volcano was still pouring out tons of lava and ash

Eye Witness

THE VILLAGE ERUPTION, ICELAND, 23 JANUARY 1973

Written by Erlingur Einarsson

ÓLAFUR GRÁNZ
Ólafur Gránz is a former carpenter and book publisher from Iceland. He lived for 50 years on the island of Heimaey, running a carpentry shop, car rental and a tourist boat excursion business. He later became an international book publisher but is retired today.

> Almost instantly, a wall of fire spewed out of the ground and we were hit by immense heat

Vestmannaeyjar (Westman Islands in English) are a group of small islands south of Iceland. Shortly after Iceland's settlement, the biggest of those, Heimaey, became home to fishermen and their families, ultimately growing to a village of more than 5,000 people. The islands were formed by a series of volcanic eruptions several millennia ago but, apart from the formation of new island Surtsey in 1963, the inhabitants had never been seriously bothered by Iceland's prolific – and infamous – volcanic activity. On 23 January 1973, that would change spectacularly.

Ólafur Gránz had lived in Vestmannaeyjar (the town is named after the islands themselves) for his whole life and would be the first witness to the closest encounters a European town would have with an volcano in the 20th Century. "On the morning of 21 January 1973 I took a walk over to the eastern part of the island," he recalls. After arriving at Urdarvitu, one of the island's lighthouses, he decided to hike across Helgafell, a long-dormant volcano posing as a hill overlooking the village. It had last erupted 5,000 years ago: "When I arrived at Helgafell's slopes I noticed that the earth had sunken across an area I knew very well. There was a beetroot garden there, which my mates and I had sometimes grabbed a few beetroots from when I passed through - with the owners' permission, of course. The ground had sunken by about 80 centimetres (30 inches) and I wondered why I hadn't noticed this on our many travels through the area before." Having hiked higher into Helgafell's slopes he looked back: "The sunken ground looked like a dried-up riverbed in the shape of an 'S'."

As it turns out, this would be the exact spot an eruption would crack and shatter the ground less than 40 hours later. And he would be right there to watch it happen. He remembers that, "Just after midnight on the eve of 23 January, my childhood friend, Hjálmar Guðnason, phoned me and asked if I wanted to go for a pier walk, as we often did, partly on account of sharing ownership of a small fishing boat at the time. He worked at Vestmannaeyjaradio [the island's radio messaging station] at the time and his shift had ended at midnight. I was tucked into bed by then but was ultimately persuaded to go out."

They took a walk down to the harbour and the marina, where they chanced upon their colleague, another fisherman: "After a short 'shop talk' with him, we decided to head out for Urdarvitu, despite it being pitch black."

For a couple of days leading up to 23 January seismic monitoring stations had been picking up increased seismic activity around Heimaey, but they were too weak to be felt by the residents, except the largest ones which measured up to 2.7 magnitude on the Richter scale. However, as earthquakes are a frequent occurrence in Iceland the local population ignored them. The only ones paying them any attention were those monitoring the seismic readings and they found that the readings were focused around Heimaey and becoming progressively shallower and more concentrated with each tremor.

The two friends had just passed the old church house on the outskirts of town, when the island decided to wake up from its 5,000-year slumber in impressive fashion. "We were startled by very loud rumbling about 100-200 meters (330-660 feet) from us," Ólafur says. "Almost instantly a wall of fire spewed out of the ground and we were hit by immense heat. A nearby herd of horses was filled with panic and they ran away into all directions. For a while we just stood there taking in this terrifying spectacle which was growing by the second. The fissure kept on ripping open and expanding toward

A natural disaster

CST

21 January

10-00am — **Ólafur Gränz notices sunken ground while hiking across Helgafell**

10-00pm — **Small quakes begin**
A series of small tremors occur but are unnoticed by humans

22 January

01-00am — **Over 100 tremors occur over two hours. Activity dies down for 12 hours**

11-00pm — **Seismic activity resumes, with larger, shallower earthquakes**

23 January

01-34am — **A 2.7-magnitude earthquake strikes, still barely noticeable by humans**

01-55am — **Eruption begins**
Eruption starts on Heimaey, about 1km (0.6mi) from the town centre

01-57am — **The lighthouse Urdarviti blows up as the expanding fissure rips open next to it**

02-00am — **The erupting fissure has expanded from 300m (985ft) to 2km (1.2mi), crossing the island. Almost everyone is awake by now**

02-30am — **Mass evacuation**
The first fishing boats start evacuating people to the mainland

08-30am — **Almost all of the island's 5,300 inhabitants have been evacuated, by boat or plane**

09-00am — **The fissure is now 3km (1.8mi) long, and workers have started saving valuables from houses next to the volcano**

31 January — **Island covered in ash**
Tephra and ash now covers almost the entire island, up to 5m (16ft) deep in places

6 February — **Efforts to save the town by spraying the lava flow with ocean water begin. They end up saving the town**

24 April — **The emerging volcano is renamed Eldfell, which literally means 'Fire Mountain'**

3 July — **Eruption officially ends**
Only one fatality is attributed, a man who broke into the pharmacy and fell victim to poisonous gasses

The eruption formed a new mountain at the edge of town, covering hundreds of houses

"I was unable to breathe... I lost consciousness at the same time and was dragged out by my colleagues, unconscious"

the sea, and a minute later we looked on as Urdarviti, which was filled with gas canisters, blew up."

Their short chat had delayed their journey to the lighthouse by only a few minutes, but it was enough to save their lives. "That's probably the reason I'm still here today, talking about this," admits Ólafur. He was 32 years old at the time, the father of seven children and ran his own carpentry business, which was housed by Heimatorg square at Jómsborg in the eastern part of town. Awe would soon be replaced by urgency. "After we had watched the magnificent spectacle for a while we headed home to wake up our families. We had just arrived home when we got a message that the authorities had declared an immediate evacuation from the island. Before we left, though, I ran over to the next house to wake up and alert the people there. I started by knocking on the basement window where my friend was renting. I banged on the window and said: 'Boggi, wake up! There's an eruption on the island!' He came to the window, half-asleep and replied: 'Shut up! You don't need to bother me just because you can't sleep' We met up just a short while ago and had a good laugh reminiscing about that."

As weather had been bad for the days leading up to the eruption, most of the town's fishing boats were tied up at the harbour, so they were all used to ferry families across to the mainland. Ólafur would have to take care of both his own family as well as Hjálmar's: "We prepared for the evacuation in a hurry, but Hjálmar was summoned to the messaging station for an emergency shift." Ólafur escorted their families through choppy waters to the small mainland village of Thorlákshöfn and from there to the capital, Reykjavík.

He did not stay there for long though and he recalls that, "Once I had found a safe place for our families I took the first plane back to the island to help people save valuables and board up windows facing the eruption, which had multiplied in size in only a few hours."

The eruption uprooted over 5,000 people from their homes, a massive number for a nation of only 210,000 at the time. It sparked the formation of an official disaster relief fund, which would provide ongoing aid and financial support for victims of the eruption as well as other future disasters from then on. Ólafur's whole world had been turned upside down, but he didn't just sit back and wait for the eruption to die out. He, along with other locals and the national authorities, would take part in staunchly fighting it.

"My longest stint was as foreman for a group of emergency workers, whose assignment was to board up windows on the walls and roofs facing the eruption, as Tephra rained over the town for a long time. More than

once we would save valuables from a house close to the constantly growing volcano, take a coffee break and when we returned the house would be gone." His initial brush with death at the start of the eruption wouldn't be the last, either. "One time, I dove through a living room window into a house about to be buried under the lave with the intention of saving doors and furniture, but it was filled with toxic gasses. I was unable to breathe, but with a lot of effort I managed to open the front door. I lost consciousness at the same time and was dragged out by my colleagues, unconscious."

Ólafur would face more long-lasting consequences of the eruption than dizziness. "My car was shipped to Reykjavík, where it was summarily stolen and remains lost to this day. My shop burned down and was completely covered in ash and my house is still buried under 20 meters (66 feet) of lava. Our boat sank at the harbour and spent a considerable time at the bottom of the sea, and the family's entire belongings were lost for a long while, only to be found three months later in poor condition in an airplane hangar. Nothing was left."

His family got enough money from the disaster relief fund for a down-payment on a new flat in the salvaged bit of Heimaey. It was filled with ash, most of the windows were broken and the water pipes had been destroyed by frost damage. Still, they moved in that same year, in June 1973, and thousands of people would follow them back. Today, over 4,100 people live in Vestmannaeyjar. "By the end of the eruption, you had dried your tears, pulled up your sleeves and gone to work rebuilding your life. By spring, I had bought a new carpentry garage, fixed it up in my spare time and got the business running again."

There was plenty after all, for a carpenter to do. "When I moved from the island after over 50 years there, I had made a fair amount of money; between the end of the eruption and moving to Reykjavík I had bought, fixed up and re-sold about 25 apartments and houses. I had a large and loyal group of customers. After moving to the mainland I started publishing books internationally and did that for over a decade. Looking back, I'm thankful for the opportunities the eruption ultimately provided."

Harbour full of boats
Bad weather in the days before meant all fishing boats were in the harbour for the night by luck, aiding the evacuation immensely
Urdarviti
The lighthouse overlooking the harbour was literally in the line of fire and blew up moments after the start of the eruption. By chance, Ólafur Gränz was not there.
Fighting the lava
The eruption would add 3.2sq km (1.2sq mi) of land to the island. The harbour was saved by spraying sea water on the wall of lava.
Eldfell
The new volcano rising out of the dormant Helgafell erupted at the edge of town, permanently covering about 400 houses with lava.
Extent of new land added to the island
January 28
April 30

Have you witnessed a landmark event in history?

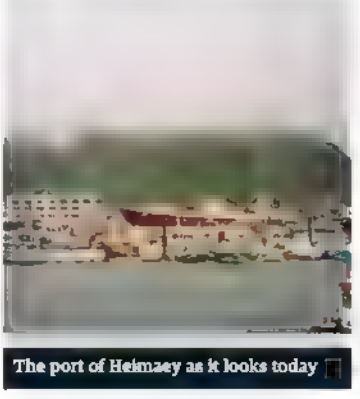
Tell us about it at...

allabouthistory@imagine-publishing.co.uk

A view of the harbour that was used for evacuation as, in the background, the volcano continues to spew ash and lava

Origins and aftermath

The origins lie deep beneath Earth's surface, in the gradual build-up of magma underneath the island. With the expanding population in Iceland, one of the most active volcanic hot spots on Earth, it was only a matter of time before an eruption would take place in a densely inhabited area, but the Heimaey eruption was the first and only within town limits to date. The eruption was reported on extensively by world media, even rivalling coverage of the ongoing Vietnam War at the time. The island became a tourist attraction even before the eruption was over, and the efforts to save the town and its harbour by fighting the advancing lava with seawater gained international attention. As is so often the case, the natural disaster brought out a community's solidarity and resolve and today the island's population is almost the same as in 1973.



The port of Heimaey as it looks today

© Corbis, Getty

What was it?

The Three Kingdoms period, also referred to as the Period of Disunity, was one of China's bloodiest eras. Following the collapse of the central ruling Han Dynasty, the states of Wei, Shu and Wu fought each other for six turbulent decades.

When did it take place?

The Three Kingdoms period begins with the foundation of the state of Wei in 220 CE and closes with the conquest of the state of Wu by the Jin Dynasty. The time frame of 220-263 CE was characterised by the formation of a militarised tripartite segregation of China's central regions, while a series of brutal battles dominated the period of 263-280 CE.

Bluffer's Guide
Three Kingdoms

CHINA, 220-280 CE

General Guan Yu was a famous soldier of the Shu Kingdom during the Three Kingdoms period

Romanticised memory

The Three Kingdoms period crippled the country economically and culturally, with millions of people killed or forced to migrate out the country, but is today remembered largely due to its romanticisation in numerous works of later fiction. The most famous example of this is Luo Guanzhong's Romance of the Three Kingdoms, a novel that dramatises the lives of the feudal lords and their retainers as they vie for control.

A statue of Guan Yu in the Three Kingdoms temple in Chengdu

Far from minted

When the imperial court collapsed and the Han Dynasty fell, so did the imperial mint, with no new coins created. As such, in 221 CE Cao Wei - the leader of the remnants of the Han that had since largely transformed into the state of Wei - officially declared that silk cloth and grain was the main currency. Despite this many new coins were secretly minted.

A statue dedicated to Liu Bei, founder and first ruler of the state of Shu Han

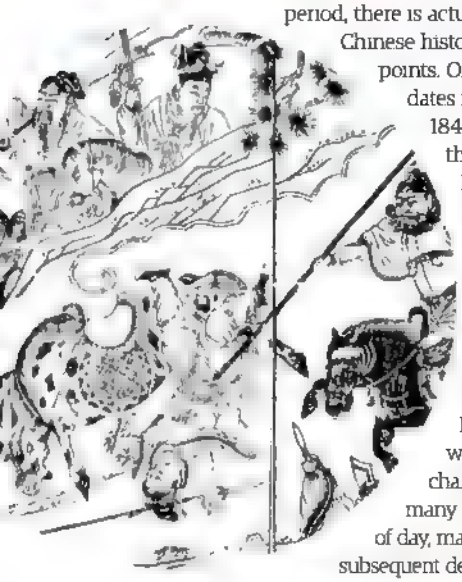
Red incense and burns at the Three Kingdoms Temple in Chengdu, China

The unification bout

The states of Shu and Wu were created largely off the back of the Battle of Red Cliff, which saw Cao Cao, the penultimate chancellor of the collapsing Han Dynasty, decisively defeated as he tried to re-unify China in 208 CE. The northern warlord was forced to retreat back to the north and his foes, Liu Bei and Sun Quan, free to establish their own fiefdoms.

Yellow Turban Rebellion

While 220-280 CE is the modern periodisation of the Three Kingdom period, there is actually no set period, with many Chinese historians citing different starting points. One of the most popular starting dates is the Yellow Turban Rebellion of 184 CE, a mass peasant revolt against the then-ruler of the Han Dynasty Emperor Ling.



Technological advances

Despite its short timeframe and negative consequences for the country, the Three Kingdoms period saw numerous advances in technology. From the wooden ox and the wheelbarrow to the repeating crossbow, chain pumps and differential gear systems, many revolutionary inventions saw the light of day, many going on to spread worldwide in subsequent decades and centuries.

A scene from Luo Guanzhong's *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*

Far from minted

When the imperial court collapsed and the Han Dynasty fell, so did the imperial mint, with no new coins created. As such, in 221 CE, Cao Wei – the leader of the remnants of the Han that had since largely transformed into the state of Wei – officially declared that silk cloth and grain was the main currency. Despite these measures, due to the bad economic depression, many new coins were secretly minted in private and placed into circulation.

Sima Yan defeated the Wu

Reunified under the Jin

With the eventual fall of each of the three warring kingdoms by 280 CE, the reunification of China was instigated by the conquering Jin Dynasty. The Jin would continue to rule China for another 140 years, with their control only ceding in 420 CE with Emperor Gong's abdication to Liu Yu, ushering in the Liu Song Dynasty, the first of the Southern Dynasties.

Key figures

Coa Coa
155-220 CE
The penultimate chancellor of the Han Dynasty, Coa Coa laid the foundations for the state of Wei.

Liu Bei
161-223 CE
Despite lacking the resources and men of his rivals, Liu Bei became a prominent warlord and established the state of Shu.

Sun Quan
182-252 CE
The founder of the state of Wu in the Three Kingdoms period, Sun Quan was an expert administrator and well known for his efficiency.

Sima Yi
179-251 CE
The grandfather of future Chinese emperor Sima Yan, Sima Yi was the period's most famous general, winning many decisive battles.

Sima Yan
236-290 CE
Sima Yan brought the Three Kingdoms period to a close by defeating the Wu, and became the Jin Dynasty's first emperor.

Major events

A rebellious fall
219CE
From the Yellow Turban Rebellion of 184 CE onward, the ruling Han Dynasty starts to collapse, finally disintegrating in 219 CE.

Tripartite broken
263 CE
After 43 years of existence, being established in 220 CE following the emergence of the tripartite, the state of Shu is conquered by the Wei after a brutal six-month siege.

Cao abdicates
264 CE
Sima Yan forces Cao Huan to abdicate, thereby overthrowing the Wei Dynasty and establishing the Jin Dynasty.

Five-prong offensive
280 CE
Sima Yan, launches a massive five-prong offensive into Wu territory, defeating their military and taking their capital, Jianye.

Reunited at last
280 CE
After 60 years of turmoil, China is reunified under the dominant Jin Dynasty, which proceeds to rule the country for 140 years.

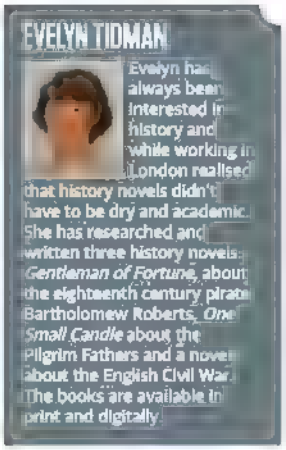
© Corbis, Alamy

What if...

The Pilgrims hadn't gone to America?

THE NEW WORLD, 1620-1630

Written by Matthew Bennett


EVELYN TIDMAN
Evelyn has always been interested in history and while working in London realised that history novels didn't have to be dry and academic. She has researched and written three history novels: *Gentleman of Fortune*, about the eighteenth century pirate Bartholomew Roberts, *One Small Candle* about the Pilgrim Fathers and a novel about the English Civil War. The books are available in print and digitally

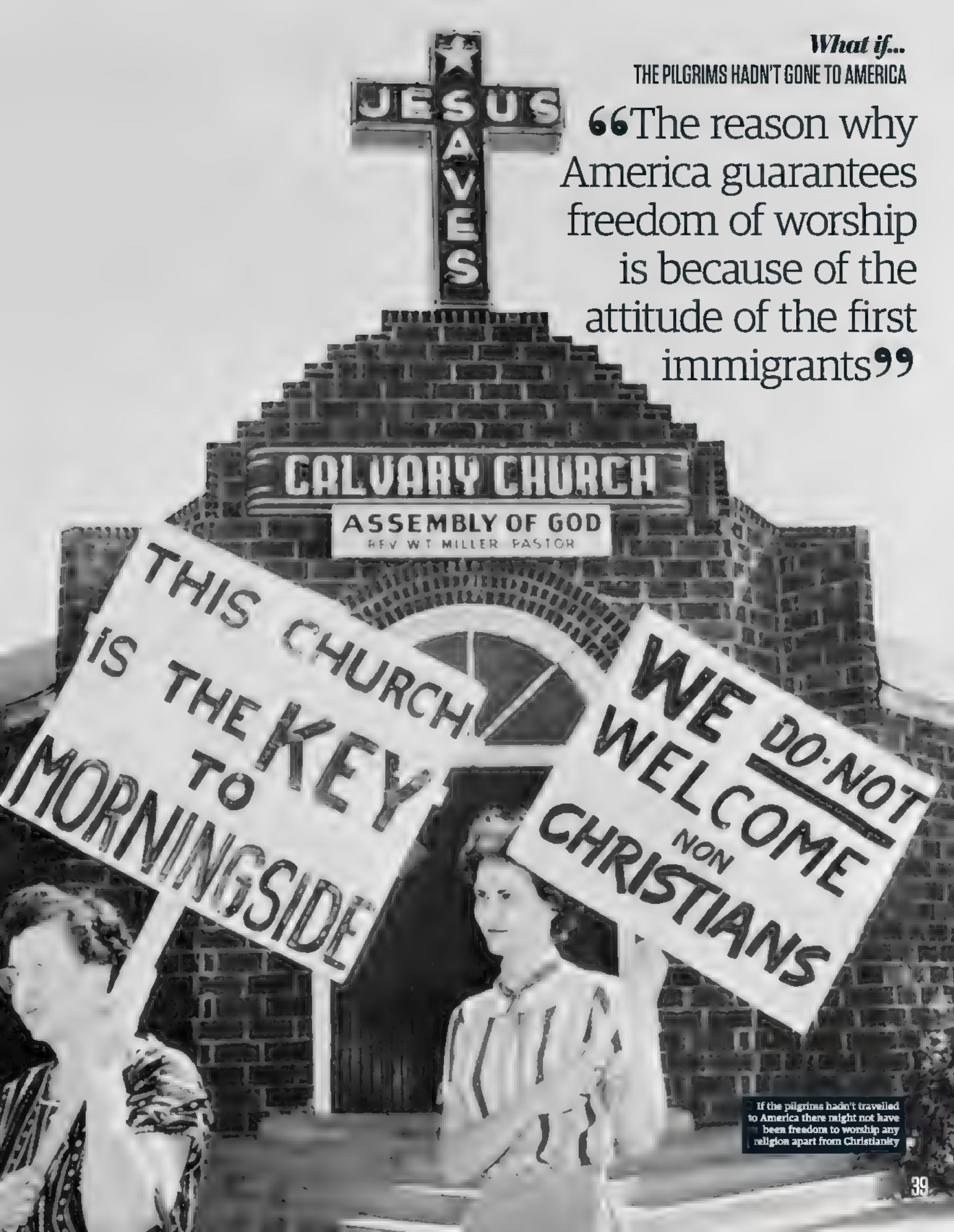
What if the British pilgrims and puritans had not travelled to America?
If they had not travelled to America it is very likely that the religious and political life of the country would be entirely different. Scholars have suggested that the Puritan base of Eastern America is responsible for the laws and attitudes of that area, and beyond, even influencing government. It has been said that the reason why America guarantees freedom of worship is because of the attitude of the first immigrants. The Pilgrims, especially, had fought for their right to worship as their consciences dictated, and they tried to guarantee that right to others, even if they disagreed doctrinally with their views. Obviously, without that influence, subsequent developments in religious America could not have happened, and I'm thinking of the Baptists, Mennonites, Amish, Christian Scientists, Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses and many others.

Why did the Pilgrims and Puritans travel to America?
One of the reasons for the Pilgrims moving to America was that their children were speaking Dutch better than they spoke English, and that they were becoming Dutch in all their ways. What they really wanted to do was to move the whole congregation [about 400 people] from Leiden [in Holland] to America, and stay a separate entity, but of course they could not do that all in one go. Other circumstances meant that they had to take strangers with them, people not of their persuasion, so already that ideal was compromised. One of the reasons the Separatists were so named was because they wanted to be separate from the Puritans. The Puritans wanted to 'purify' the church of England while the Separatists gave it up as a bad job! So Puritans and Separatists did not see eye to eye religiously, although later with the establishment of the Massachusetts Bay colony they merged.

Without these English settlements what other nation might have become the dominant force in America?
It would be nice to think that the Native Americans would have had the place to themselves without these English settlements, but that would not have happened. At the time, the nations of Europe were intent on carving up the New World to their best advantage. The Portuguese had already got a foothold in South America in Brazil. The Spanish were hot on their heels also in South America and the Caribbean. The Dutch had their efforts in Surname in South America and had already set their eyes on what is now New York, and the French were busy trying to gain Canada and islands in the Caribbean. Along with all this colonising, the British were the leaders. At the time of the Pilgrims, they had already established the Virginia Company for the express purpose of colonisation, and the reason the Pilgrims got a patent to go to America was because the British government were keen to get a foothold there before everyone else did! Indeed, the Pilgrims themselves, were always on the alert in case of Spanish or French attack. As to the question on who would have been dominant, the truth is that it is difficult to tell, because they would have been fighting it out among themselves. The educated guess is probably the Spanish, because they actually colonised most of the Americas at the time.

How would the native Americans have been affected if the English didn't settle in the east coast?
If the Spanish had indeed been the dominant group, they would have brought the Inquisition, much like the conquistadores in South America did to the peoples in what is now Mexico. The Spanish Inquisition would have forced the native Americans to accept the Catholic faith by the use of torture and murder. And like the Incas and Mayans, it is doubtful if many would have survived. One of the arguments the Pilgrims had for not going to Virginia was that the Spanish were nearby and they were afraid of the Inquisition. And another reason for leaving Leiden was the threat of Spanish invasion again bringing the Inquisition. It was a real fear. The Pilgrims, whose religious ideas were against war, had a peace contract with the local Indians, which lasted more than

"The reason why America guarantees freedom of worship is because of the attitude of the first immigrants"


JESUS SAVES
CALVARY CHURCH
ASSEMBLY OF GOD
REV WT MILLER PASTOR
THIS CHURCH IS THE KEY TO MORNINGSIDE
WE DO NOT WELCOME NON CHRISTIANS

If the pilgrims hadn't travelled to America there might not have been freedom to worship any religion apart from Christianity

A painting showing the Pilgrims in Holland before they departed for the New World in search of religious freedom

50 years. The Puritans, however, had no such scruples against war, and as they settled in Massachusetts Bay, problems arose between them and the Wampanoag. In 1675 war erupted between the Wampanoag and the English [King Philip's war] and 40 per cent of the Wampanoag Indians were killed. Of the rest, the men were sold into slavery in the West Indies and the women and children were enslaved in New England.

Would English still be the main language in America?
No, I don't think so. If the Spanish had indeed become dominant in the region not only America but probably the whole world would have been a very different place, and very likely Spanish would have been the dominant language rather than English. To see the influence the Spanish had, we could look at Mexico, Argentina, Peru, Colombia and other South American countries. Perhaps America would have become a similar kind of nation. So if the Spanish had indeed colonised the North American continent, everyone else following would have had to learn Spanish, including the English and Irish. Indeed, perhaps the English and Irish would not have gone to America at all. Now there's a thought! The fact that English did indeed become the dominant language has had its influence on the politics of the whole world, not just America. After the American War of Independence, the British and the Americans had a 'special relationship' no doubt strongly influenced by the shared language. If, on the other hand, America spoke Spanish, the whole outlook of the nation would have been different. The politics would have leaned heavily on Catholicism, instead of on the Puritan work ethic. Economically, America might not have done so well, for the Puritan work ethic was largely responsible for the economic growth, making America the financially prosperous land that it is today. Additionally there would have been no 'special relationship' between Britain and America, and perhaps America would not have been so dominant in world politics. America might not have come to Britain's aid in the first World War, and the whole world could have been different.

What ramifications for the American government would there have been without a New England producing John Adams and Benjamin Franklin?
That I cannot answer, not being well enough acquainted with Adams and Franklin, so to speak. However, if I had to speculate, one thing I noticed about both Adams and Franklin is their attack on slavery. Perhaps this came about because of their religious background among New England Puritans. Religion certainly played a part in how people viewed and treated others.

Would the English have had later opportunities in America if the 1620 and 1630 Pilgrims and Puritans hadn't gone there?
The country is so large, that someone would have gone there and done something. So probably, yes. No doubt the Irish, who are not English, but who speak the language, would have made a mass migration in the 1800s, just as they did. And very likely lots of English would have gone, just as they did. Once they were able to sail around the southern cape, then the possibilities were endless. So yes, I think they would have had opportunity, though not necessarily in the east.

How would it be different?

Real timeline

1558

Act of Uniformity
This key piece of legislature cemented the status of the Church of England. Under the terms of this Act conformity with Church of England procedure was compulsory.
1558-1559

The Virginia Company
Established by King James I, the Virginia Company of London was a joint-stock company formed to establish New World settlements and achieve profit for its shareholders.
1606

Escape to Holland
The Pilgrims travelled to Holland to escape the ongoing problems and persecution of religious non-conformists in England. They went first to Amsterdam and then on to Leiden.
1607-8

To the New World
With the negotiated assistance of the Virginia Company of London, the Pilgrims are able to sail from Plymouth, England bound for America on the Mayflower.
1620

Hampton Court Conference
A series of meetings held by King James I. Puritan demands were largely dismissed but the conference did result in the King James Bible.
1604

Real timeline

Storms at sea
Having travelled more than half the distance to the destination, the Mayflower encounters strong storms that cause one the ship's main beams to crack.
October 1620

No turning back?
Though they are nearer to America than England, the storms are severe enough that a return is considered. The main beam is repaired.
October 1620

Alternate timeline

Disaster
Despite efforts to repair the damage caused by the storms, the ship capsizes with the loss of all passengers. It is thought that the ship was attempting to turn back to England.
October 1620

Had the English tried to go to America later, what might have been the result?
If they had tried to take the settlements in the east away from the Spanish, or French or whoever, there would have been war. But over the centuries, so many different migrations have happened to America - everything from Jewish people, Spanish, Russians, Poles, Irish and of course Africans, and others as well as English that it is truly a mixture nation. Probably, in time the same thing would have happened regardless of who settled on the eastern coasts.

How would the history of the UK have been different if the Pilgrims and Puritans hadn't gone to America?
It wouldn't have made much difference to the UK, which trundled on in its own way through its own revolutions as the seventeenth century wore on. The Civil War would still have happened and the Puritan Cromwell would still have become Lord Protector before the return of Charles II and the ousting of the Puritans. The Pilgrims themselves were not into politics of any kind. They just wanted to worship God in their way, they would have had no political influence and would have kept out of the Civil War. However, it's a different story with the Puritans. There were not that many Puritans left in the country but those who stayed meddled in politics that led to the Civil War. With more puritans in the country this

The landing of the Mayflower and its 102 passengers in the New World of opportunity that was America

> "The Puritan work ethic was largely responsible for the economic growth, making America prosperous"

could have inflamed the situation further. The English Civil War was caused by a lot of factors, but on the one side there was Charles I, who as head of the Church of England wished to impose Episcopal rule on the rest of the country. In England, politics and religion were closely related. With the rise of the Reformation, many people saw from the Bible (which was now in English) that the church should be run by elders, not priests. From these rose the Separatists and Puritans, Presbyterians, Quakers, and all non-conformist religions. Of these, the Puritans were the dominant party in England. To impose Episcopalian rule (rule by priests and bishops) on the church in Scotland, the King went to war in 1639-40. He was defeated and the victors imposed heavy fines on him that he could not pay, so he had to apply to Parliament for funds. However, Parliament consisted of Puritans. Their involvement in politics brought them into head-on conflict with the King, and the war broke out in 1642 with Puritans on one side and the King and Royalists on the other. The Puritans won, the King was beheaded and Oliver Cromwell became Lord Protector for 11 years, during which time the whole country was now forced to conform to Puritan ideas of religion, so there was no freedom of religion.

What might the America of today be like without the Pilgrims' and Puritans' settlements?
With English dominant in America and the influence of the Pilgrims and Puritans, religious tolerance was started from early on in the country's history. The English psyche almost to a man, is probably more dominant among that nation than religion and belief, is that a person's religion is his own business. With a difference influence - say that of the Spanish Inquisition - America might have grown up a religiously intolerant country where other religions apart from Christianity were not accepted.

Have your say
Do you agree with our expert's view?
/AllAboutHistory
@AboutHistoryMag

- **Land sighted**
  The Mayflower is nearing its destination, and prayers of thanks are given when land is sighted at the beginning of November
  November 1620

- **Puritans land**
  Thanks to a Royal Charter from King Charles I the previous year, the Winthrop Fleet of 11 ships carrying around 700-800 Puritans sails from England to New England.
  1630

- **Harvard formed**
  The Massachusetts Bay Colony issues a grant to establish the first English institution of higher education on the continent, two years later it is named Harvard.
  1636

- **The Mayflower Compact**
  41 male passengers sign the Mayflower Compact, an attempt at forming a fixed, legally binding declaration of self-government to suppress dissent.
  November 1620

- **First Thanksgiving**
  The Pilgrims invite their Indian allies to a feast, known ever since as the first Thanksgiving, to celebrate the harvest and their survival
  October 1621

- **Spanish speaking**
  Spanish becomes the main language of America and English is only spoken in small pockets on the great island mass.
  1710

- **Home from home**
  The Pilgrim colonies are well established and they are free to practice their religion
  1720

- **No New World**
  News of the sinking of the Mayflower and the death of the Puritans reaches England.
  1621

- **Spanish Inquisition**
  The Spanish begin to colonise large parts of North America and turn their attentions to the east coast. They strongly enforce the Catholic faith through the Inquisition.
  1625

- **Puritans stay in England**
  Put off by the failed attempt by the pilgrims five years earlier, the Puritans stay in England and do not travel to the New World in search of a new life.
  1630

- **Religious intolerance**
  Without the influence of the pilgrims – who believed in religious freedoms – America starts to become religiously intolerant of anything but the Christian faith.
  1670

- **No special relationship**
  With the English influence in America greatly reduced, the country's main language becomes Spanish and the 'special relationship' between America and Britain never develops
  1720 – present day

©Corbis

Destination
MOSCOW, RUSSIA

Tour Guide
The Kremlin

Often used as a byword for the Russian state itself, the Kremlin has been at the centre of Russian power, culture and heritage for centuries

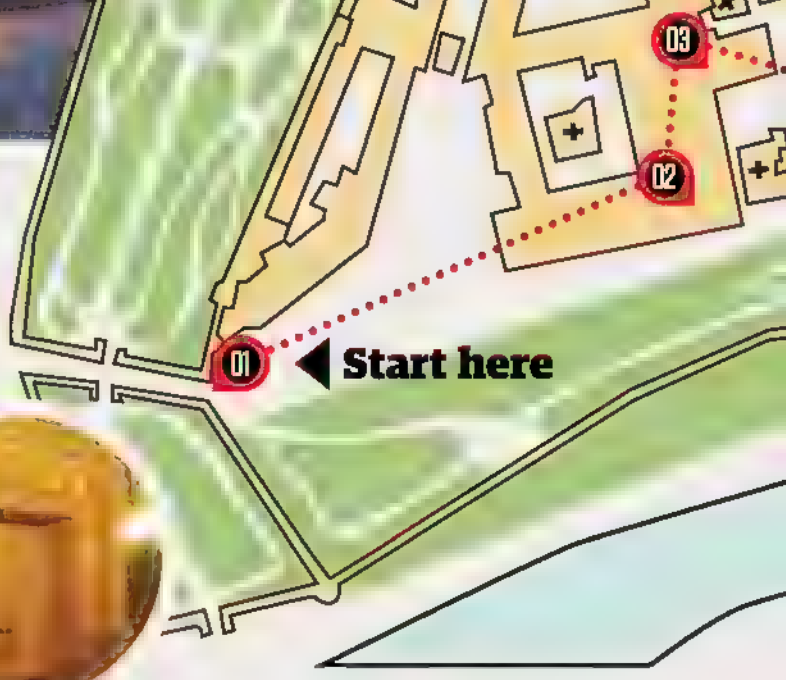
View of the Kremlin from the Moscow river

01 Napoleon defied

The Borovitskaya Gate Tower was severely damaged by Napoleon's troops in 1812, as they attempted to blow it up during the army's retreat. Hundreds of artillery pieces captured during the Grand Armeé's humiliating retreat are still on display throughout the grounds of the Kremlin.

02 A visit from the West

On 28 March 1987, UK prime minister Margaret Thatcher visited the USSR for talks with Mikhail Gorbachev. She was received in St George's Hall, one of the palace's five reception halls and the largest room in the Kremlin Palace. The hall is named after one of the orders of the Russian Empire, Georgievsky. Thatcher's visit was a landmark in the warming relations between Russia and the West.



03 A STATE OCCASION

In the 16th century, Ivan IV held his court here, in the Palace of the Facets, and some 400 years later Mikhail Gorbachev entertained US president Ronald Reagan on his visit to Moscow.

Moscow, Russia

As old as Moscow itself, the Kremlin was originally a fortified settlement thought to be from where the city first sprung up. Its walls, now made of stone rather than wood, still completely encircle the complex. Moscow has faced near destruction many times in its history, but still served as the political centre of Russia on numerous occasions and to this day. Though in competition with St Petersburg, the former Imperial capital, the city still held the seat of Russian Tsars and emperors, as well as the Communist puppet masters of the Soviet Union. Political giants from across the ages, including Peter the Great, Napoleon Bonaparte and Josef Stalin, have all made the walk through the gilded halls of the Kremlin's palaces and, in modern times, it saw the first warm words between the East and the West after decades of the Cold War

08 Enemy at the gates

Throughout the Red Square's history no single event is more significant than the November 1941 parade, when the German army sat just 40 miles outside Moscow. In an act of defiance, as well as to present a strong front, the Red Army held its annual parade to commemorate the Bolshevik Revolution. This time, however, the soldiers continued marching to the front line, which by this stage had reached the outskirts of the city

07 The broken bell

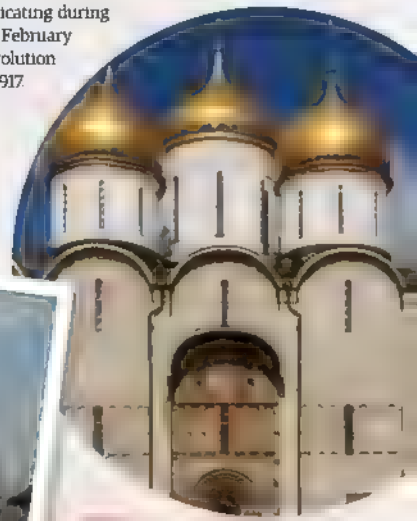
Weighing over 200 tons, the Tsar Bell has never been rung and a large piece of it actually broke off during its casting back in 1737

06 A CANNON FIT FOR A TSAR

Built for Tsar Feodor in 1586, it's unclear whether or not the Tsar Cannon was intended for use in battle, but it remains the largest cannon in the world.

05 The last Tsar is crowned

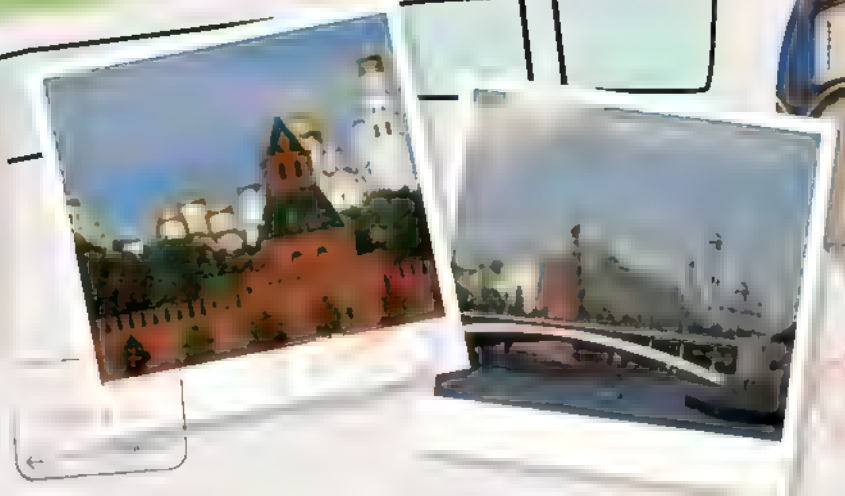
The Cathedral of the Assumption, or of the Dormition, is where all Russian monarchs and emperors were crowned since Ivan IV, 'The Terrible' the country's fist Tsar, assumed the throne. It was here, in 1896, that Nicholas II Romanov was crowned, he was the last Tsar of Russia, abdicating during the February Revolution in 1917



© Corsk Alamy

04 In the footsteps of giants

The Red Staircase leads down to Cathedral Square. It was on these stairs, in 1682, that a ten-year-old Peter the Great witnessed several members of his family thrown down onto the spikes of rebellious Streltsy troopers. Napoleon Bonaparte also climbed the stairs shortly after capturing Moscow in 1812, but could only watch from the palace as the city was burned to the ground.



ELIZABETH I
British, 1533 - 1603
Brief Bio
Elizabeth assumed the throne after the death of her Catholic sister Mary, upon which she faced an unstable nation torn apart by religious conflict. Over the course of her reign she fought enemies at home and abroad, uniting England under one church and oversaw the exploration of new lands.

THE TURBULENT REIGN OF ELIZABETH

She fought off foreign invasions and domestic rebellions but did she really preside over a golden age?

Written by Jonathan Hatfull

In 1588, against the advice of her most trusted aides, Elizabeth I rode out on her grey gelding to address her troops gathered at Tilbury in Essex in preparation of repelling the expected invasion force of the Spanish Armada. Looking out at the assembled faces before her, she delivered a speech that would go down in history and for many would forever define her: "I know I have the body of a weak, feeble woman, but I have the heart and stomach of a king – and of a king of England too."

The speech would have to be transcribed and redistributed for the soldiers who were unable to hear the Queen but they had all seen their monarch, armoured and on her steed, ready to stand by them to repel the Catholic invasion. This image of Elizabeth has been the key to our popular perception of her for centuries, but there's much more to her. Elizabeth was cunning and capricious, but she could be blinded by affection,

LEANDA DE LISLE

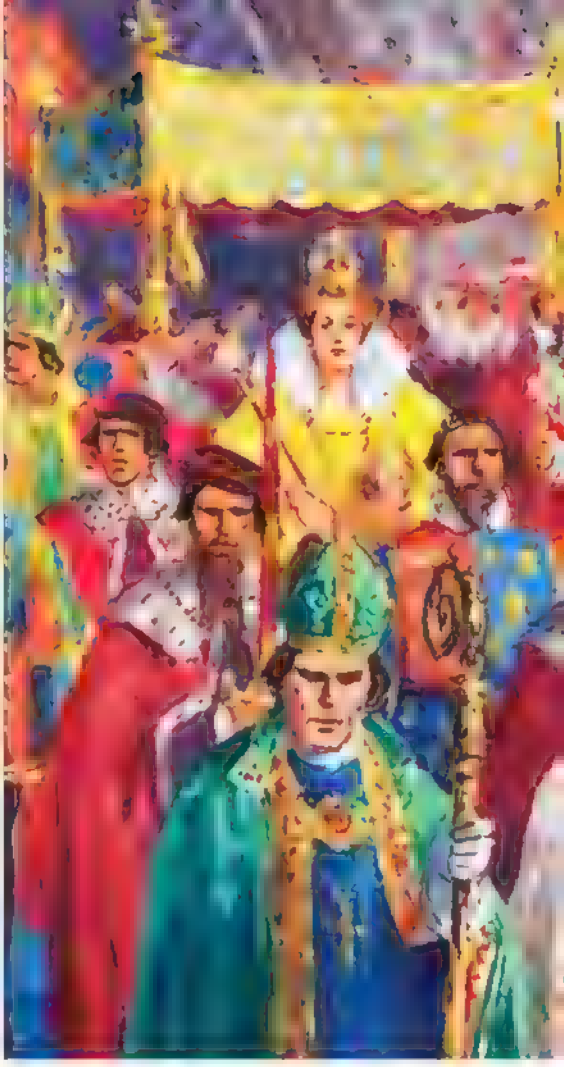
De Lisle is the author of numerous books including *After Elizabeth* and *The Sisters Who Would Be Queen*, which was a top ten best-seller. Her latest book is *Tudor; The Family Story* and is published by Chatto and is available now.

if only temporarily. She was tremendously clever, with an almost unfailing sense of what her people wanted or needed from her, but had to see off foreign invasion attempts and homegrown rebellions. While she was sitting on the throne of England the country became acquainted with some of its greatest triumphs and darkest hours.

When Elizabeth came to the throne in November 1558, the whole of Europe was on tenterhooks. How would the new Protestant queen follow the reign of her Catholic sister Mary? With an unstable nation and conspiracies at home and abroad, the situation required diplomacy, intelligence and bravery; three qualities of which Elizabeth had always had in ample supply. In fact, the unstable situation was nothing new to her; Elizabeth's position had been precarious from the moment she was born. The daughter of Henry VIII's second wife, Anne Boleyn, she was immediately deemed as illegitimate by any Catholic nations, who regarded the king's divorce of Catherine of Aragon as illegal. In their eyes, Catherine's daughter Mary was the only rightful heir to the throne.

Although both parents had been desperate for a boy, Anne would be a doting mother to her infant child, but she was sent to the executioner's block in 1536 after failing to produce a male heir for her king. Although Henry's third wife Jane Seymour was kind to Elizabeth and Mary, she had her own child to attend to with the birth of her son and Henry's heir, Edward. Henry himself would not see much of Elizabeth until 1542, when he decided the time had come to reacquaint himself with his young daughter. He found her to be intelligent and charming, and decided that he would reinstate both Mary and Elizabeth back into his lineage.

In 1543, Henry married Catherine Parr, his last wife, and relations within the royal family warmed, as Mary took a maternal interest in young Edward, while Elizabeth enjoyed a sisterly relationship with both. However, when Edward took the throne upon their father's death, cracks started to form. First, Elizabeth had to contend with the amorous attentions of Catherine's new husband Thomas Seymour, which caused a scandal at court in 1548. Seymour's intentions were seen as treasonous, and Elizabeth was



"SHE WAS TREMENDOUSLY CLEVER, WITH AN ALMOST UNFAILING SENSE OF WHAT HER PEOPLE WANTED, OR NEEDED FROM HER"

HOW GOOD WAS ELIZABETH AT BALANCING THE BOOKS?

While the popular image is that Mary left England in a sorry state, Leanda de Lisle explains that Elizabeth's fiscal behaviour was far from immaculate. Mary left England £227,000 in debt, while her sister produced debts of £350,000. "Mary's reign was not a 'disaster'. The popular image of Mary – always 'Bloody Mary', rarely Mary I – has been greatly influenced by a combination of sexual and religious prejudice," explains De Lisle. "Mary I had named Elizabeth as her heir, despite her personal feelings towards her sister, and so allowed the crown to be inherited peacefully. Elizabeth continued to refuse to name anyone. In 1562, believing she was dying, she asked for Robert Dudley to be made Lord Protector with an income of £20,000." Elizabeth was notoriously reluctant to engage in warfare because of its costs and risk, but the Spanish conflict dragged on for years, while she awarded monopolies to her favourites at court and crops failed. "While we remember Elizabeth's success in repelling the Armada in 1588," says De Lisle, "We forget that the war continued and impoverished the country and the crown, a situation made worse by the corruption of court officials including notorious high-ranking figures such as Robert Cecil. People starved in the 1590s and the elite even began to fear possible revolution."

VERDICT

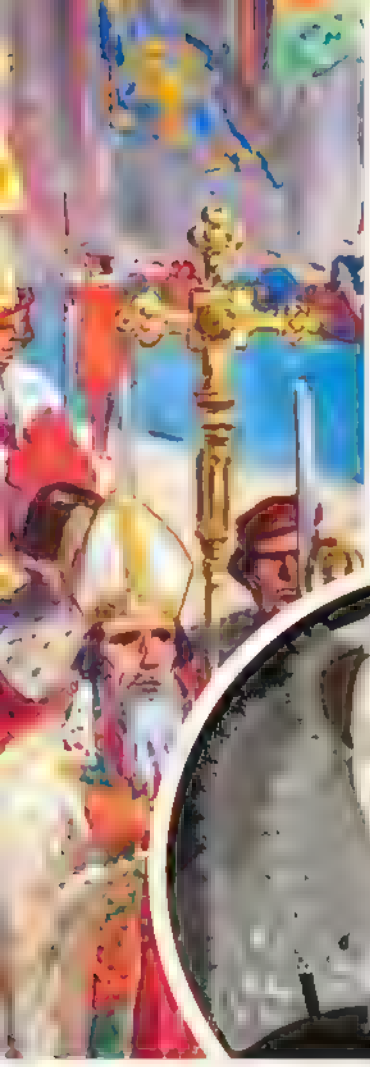
Elizabeth was forced to deal with circumstances beyond her control, such as poor harvests and an ongoing conflict with Spain, but the fact is that she was not the financial marvel many believe her to be.

BORROWING MONEY IN THE 16TH CENTURY

Before the English merchant Thomas Gresham came to prominence, the Tudors had borrowed money from the great European banks such as the Antwerp Exchange. However, these banks charged a high interest rate and it was generally acknowledged that going around Europe borrowing money did nothing to improve England's image as a serious power. Money could also be borrowed from independent merchants, such as Horatio Palavicino, who Elizabeth was forced to borrow money from late in her reign. Gresham had previously helped Edward VI rid himself of most of his debts and founded the Royal Exchange in 1571 to challenge the power of Antwerp.

Now that Elizabeth could seek loans from within her realm, she was able to exert greater pressure to get what she wanted, while Parliament could grant her more funds if they wanted. Later in her reign, she began to use increasingly severe taxation, which contributed to her decreasing popularity.

Queen Elizabeth I opening the Royal Exchange



Picture depicting the coronation of Elizabeth I in 1558

Portrait of Mary Queen of Scots, who was executed after being found guilty of plotting against Elizabeth I

WAS A RELIGIOUS COMPROMISE MET?

The Church of England was one of compromise and middle ground. While she herself was a Protestant, she didn't hold the puritanical beliefs of some of her council members. She introduced the Act of Supremacy in 1558, which reaffirmed England's separation from Rome and established her as the head of the Church. Elizabeth understood the dangers of trying to impose religion and allowed Catholicism to continue, provided it took place in secret.

However, Leanna de Lisle reminds us that we should not forget Elizabeth's willingness to crack down when necessary. "Elizabeth's conservatism and pragmatism has seen her described as a religious moderate, in contrast to the 'fanatical' Mary," she explains. "But as the new Protestant queen of a largely Catholic country Elizabeth was necessarily moderate, and as her reign grew longer, she proved that, like Mary, she could be utterly ruthless when faced by a threat. The hundreds of executions of villagers following the Northern Rebellion far exceeded anything her predecessors had done in similar circumstances; her later persecution of Catholics was also relentless and cruel. It is a little-known fact that she also burned heretics – namely Anabaptists – these were far fewer in number than Mary's victims, but then there weren't that many Anabaptists!" She executed both Protestants and Catholics for publicly disobeying the laws of the Church of England. However, events in Europe show the English queen in a much more favourable light. Comparatively, Elizabeth was extremely tolerant. The St Bartholomew's Day Massacre in Paris showed the fervour with which Catholic Europeans detested Protestants. She was also much more tolerant than many of her advisors.

VERDICT

Elizabeth successfully found a moderate middle ground in a very turbulent time, but would crack down mercilessly if the rules she had laid down were broken.

VS

CATHOLIC

1. The services were held in Latin, countermanding the reformation's ideal that everyone should be able to understand. The English prayer book was banned.
2. Church furnishings were restored to their former lavish state and the buildings were now decorated completely with Catholic artwork.
3. Catholic Mass was reintroduced, and Holy Communion was now banned by law.
4. The clergy were not allowed to marry. Priests who had married before the new law came into effect were given a choice of two options: Leave their families or lose their job.

C OF E

1. The image of the minister became much simpler. They were not allowed to wear Roman Catholic vestments, such as the surplice.
2. All rood lofts, a screen portraying the crucifixion, a common feature in Catholic churches, were removed. The Pope was not the head of the church.
3. The Bishop's Bible, which was in English rather than Latin, was restored, opening it up to a wider readership.
4. There was a general removal of superstition, such as making the sign of the cross during communion. Simplicity was what the Puritans strived for.

reported to be pregnant. The young princess denied these rumours, confounding her interrogator. "She hath a very good wit and nothing is gotten of her but by great policy," he wrote. This practice would serve her well once Mary took the throne but not all players were as skilled in the game of thrones; Seymour was executed the following year.

When the staunchly Catholic Mary refused to convert, Edward began proceedings to remove both his sisters from the line to the throne, fixing his hopes on his cousin, Lady Jane Grey, instead. However, the prince was seldom in good health during his short life, so it was no surprise that he died before the contract could be finalised and Mary became the new queen of England. Just as Edward had asked Mary to change her faith, the new queen was determined that her sister should convert. She acquiesced without enthusiasm, but it was clear to both Protestants and Catholics that her true allegiance still lay with her father's Church of England rather than the Pope's Catholic Church. Over the course of Mary's reign, many conspiracy plots were designed to get Elizabeth onto the throne. None of them succeeded, but they did almost manage to get her killed.

In 1554, Thomas Wyatt attempted a rebellion following the announcement that Mary would marry the Spanish king Philip. The queen's reprisal was brutal and swift, executing not only the ringleaders, but Jane Grey as well. Elizabeth claimed ignorance, a trick she managed to successfully repeat a year later after another attempted rebellion in 1555, but her sister's patience was wearing thin and Elizabeth was placed in the Tower of London, with some Catholic supporters clamouring for her execution. Elizabeth's future prospects were looking anything but golden, and the next few months saw her walking a political tightrope. Mary, desperate to provide her husband and her country with a Catholic heir to end the uncertainty surrounding the throne, announced that she was pregnant, but by 1558, it became clear that Mary's condition was not pregnancy, but a devastating illness. Her health broke quickly, and she died on 17 November of that year after begging Elizabeth to keep England Catholic once she took the throne. Her wishes would not be fulfilled.

> "THE QUEEN'S REPRISAL WAS BRUTAL AND SWIFT, EXECUTING NOT ONLY THE RINGLEADERS, BUT ALSO JANE GREY"

Elizabeth's coronation was a stunning balancing act. With countless eyes waiting for any hint of an overtly Protestant or Catholic gestures, Elizabeth managed to confound them all. Instead, the emphasis was elsewhere. Elizabeth's intention to restore England to a state of prosperity. The new queen knew that if she was to have any chance of surviving her early years she would need trusted and astute advisors, and chose William Cecil and Robert Dudley. Cecil had worked for Edward, survived the reign of Mary and was fiercely loyal to Elizabeth. In contrast, Dudley's appointment and favour with the queen had nothing to do with his abilities as a politician. He had known Elizabeth since childhood and her affection for him had only grown stronger, and rumours abounded that she spent the nights as well as the days with him.

Cecil disapproved of Dudley and agreed with the majority of Parliament that Elizabeth should marry as soon as possible. The eyes of France and

DID ELIZABETH HAVE A GENUINE THIRST FOR NEW WORLDS?

Although the expansion of trade into India occurred during Elizabeth's reign, in terms of exploration she is best remembered for England's attempt to colonise North America. The Spanish and Portuguese had already laid claim to much of South America, establishing lucrative trade routes, but North America was relatively unexplored. Elizabeth was reluctant to fund exploratory voyages for much the same reasons that she was reluctant to fund wars: they were expensive and risky. However, she could be won around with the promise of riches from one of her favourites and, when sailor Davy Ingram returned to England with alluring tales of riches and simple inhabitants, geographer Richard Hakluyt began plotting a serious expedition to be led by Walter Raleigh.

With the promise of fortune and the flattery of Raleigh, she agreed to a trip to form a colony named after her: Virginia. The first party launched, and Raleigh would follow. When the nobleman arrived, he saw the settlement had failed. The English were desperate to leave. Raleigh's second attempt was intended for Chesapeake Bay, but the first group, led by John White, returned to Roanoke. Raleigh arrived with his second group and found no trace of survivors. Elizabeth was disappointed that these costly ventures yielded no results. There was one purpose to these expeditions, as de Lisle explains very simply: "Making money."

VERDICT

The Elizabethan era's reputation for exploration is largely due to the fact that there was money to be made from it. Piratical ventures were profitable; colonisation was not.

2. 1585
Following a positive report, Raleigh dispatches colonists to settle at Roanoke in Virginia. By the time he arrives on a later ship, the crops have failed and the English are desperate to leave.

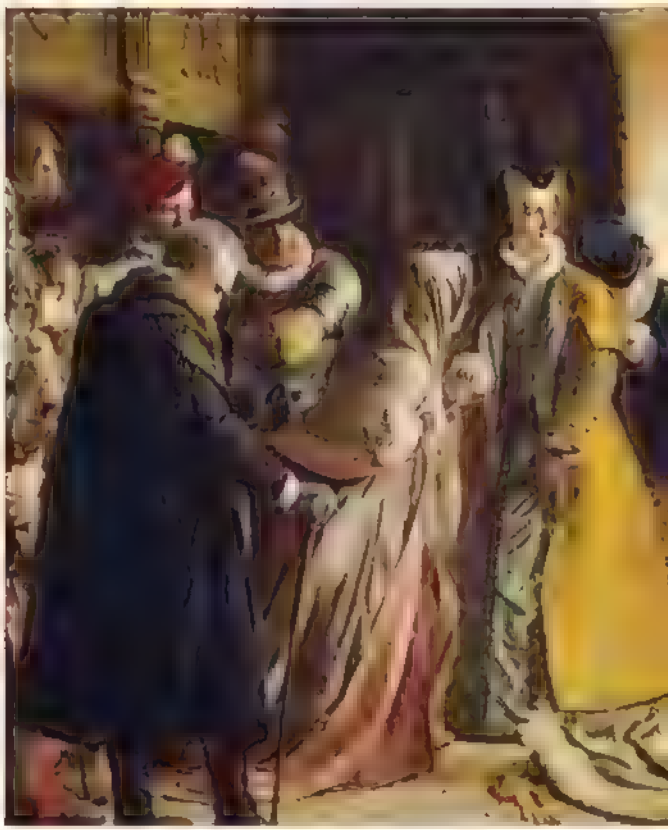
3. 1587
Raleigh tries again to establish a colony at Chesapeake Bay, but instead the settlers travel to Roanoke. When Raleigh arrives, all 150 colonists have disappeared, with only a single skeleton remaining.

1. 1584
Walter Raleigh and Richard Hakluyt convince Elizabeth to fund an expedition to explore the possibility that a colony could be founded on America's east coast.

Spain were fixed on England and it made sense for the queen to create a marriage alliance with one of these major powers for her and the country's safety. King Philip made no secret of his desire to marry Elizabeth, but she had no interest in marrying Mary's former husband. Henry of Anjou was suggested as a match, but he was still a child. Elizabeth spoke instead of being married to her nation, but scandal struck when Dudley's wife Amy died suddenly after apparently falling down the stairs in 1560. It was rumoured that Dudley had committed the deed for his queen, and Elizabeth was forced to expel him from her court.

In 1561, Elizabeth's cousin, Mary Queen of Scots, returned to Scotland from France. For many Catholics, Mary was the true successor and she did little to downplay those clamouring for a Catholic monarch. Her arrival was perfectly timed, as Elizabeth was on the verge of death due to smallpox. However, she recovered and, with the scandal over Dudley dissipating, Elizabeth chose him to be Lord Protector, bringing him back into her court, before shocking everyone by suggesting

"THE QUEEN RALLIED THE ENGLISH TROOPS BY DECLARING THAT SHE WOULD FIGHT BY THEIR SIDE TO REPEL ANYONE WHO DARED TO SET FOOT ON THEIR LAND"



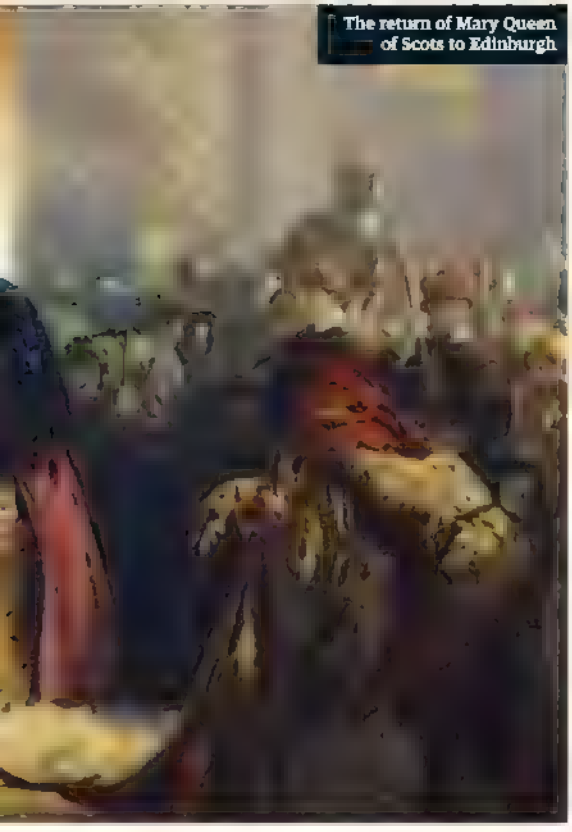
a marriage between him and Mary. This was Elizabeth showing her political astuteness; she knew well that Scotland with a Catholic heir would have too much power, but a heir produced by her favourite and Mary Queen of Scots could potentially unite the two countries. However, Dudley refused and Mary had no interest in marrying her cousin's paramour.

Instead, Mary married for love, choosing Lord Henry Darnley. Seeing this may have prompted Elizabeth to renew her interest in Dudley, which greatly upset the council, in particular the ambitious Lord Norfolk. When the tension between Norfolk and Dudley grew too great, Elizabeth understood that she needed to assert her authority. "I will have here but one mistress and no master," she told Dudley. It was both a political statement and a personal one. The lack of a husband and heir was only made worse in 1566 when Mary gave birth to a son, James, but she was desperately unhappy. Darnley was a violent, drunken husband who many believed brutally murdered her secret lover, David Rizzio. Darnley would meet his own nasty end a year later, when he was found strangled in the garden of a house. Mary quickly married the Earl of Bothwell, the man who had allegedly murdered Darnley, and Scottish forces rose against her. Imprisoned and forced to abdicate, she eventually fled to England. Elizabeth agreed to give Mary shelter, but her arrival in the north had given Catholics a figurehead and rebellion brewed.

The northern Earls suggested that Norfolk should marry Mary: soon, the Northern Rebellion had begun. As the rebel forces marched south, Elizabeth moved Mary to Coventry and mustered troops of her own. The southern Earls rallied to her cause, which stunned the rebel forces, who began to retreat. Elizabeth's victory was quick and decisive, with 700 men being executed in a brutal display of power. Norfolk was placed under arrest, but a lack of concrete evidence postponed his execution, until he was implicated in the Ridolfi plot, which aimed to make Philip II king. Elizabeth ordered and rescinded Norfolk's execution three times – a prime example of how indecisive she could be at times – before finally deciding that he simply had to die.

If Elizabeth's position at home appeared shaky it was positively stable compared to how she was viewed abroad. The Pope decreed that anyone who murdered the heretical English queen would be forgiven, a statement King Philip took to heart. Not wanting to risk open war, Elizabeth found other ways to aggravate her enemies. She quietly patronised the piratical exploits of John Hawkins and later his cousin Francis Drake. In 1577, when he planned to travel to South America to raid Spanish gold, Elizabeth met Drake with Walsingham, one of her French ambassadors.

The cautious Cecil had to be kept in the dark, but she told Drake explicitly that she supported



The return of Mary Queen of Scots to Edinburgh

Queen Elizabeth I knighting Francis Drake in 1581

him. "I would gladly be revenged on the King of Spain for diverse injuries I have received." Having sailed through the Straits of Magellan and captured a Spanish ship carrying up to £200,000 in gold, Drake decided to sail across the Pacific, in the process becoming the first man to circumnavigate the globe. Elizabeth gloried in his achievement, and when she met the Spanish ambassador in 1581, she pointedly wore a crucifix Drake had given to her from the loot. She dined with Drake on the Golden Hind and knighted him. He had done her proud.

These piratical exploits stood in sharp contrast to the events of 1572. The St Bartholomew's Day Massacre in Paris – the assassination of a number of French Calvinist Protestants – shocked England and the ambassador Sir Francis Walsingham was forced to take refuge. Elizabeth brought him back to London to become her spymaster, where he advised that Mary Queen of Scots was a real danger. The uprising was not only a shocking scene for English Protestants; it was also a sign that the Protestant Netherlands and their booming wool trade would soon be in danger. When William the Silent asked Elizabeth for military assistance, she did not want to be seen to intervene and give Philip of Spain an excuse to attack. Walsingham counselled war, while Cecil continued to preach marriage. So Elizabeth entertained the idea of marrying the Duke of Anjou, roughly ten years after it had first been suggested. Then, he had been an ugly youth and she had been a beautiful queen. Now, she was visibly older and the flattery of the French ambassador and Anjou's letters began to win her over. When they finally met, it appeared that Elizabeth really was in love, but there were genuine concerns over how the English people would react.

"The anxieties Elizabeth expressed to the emissary of Mary Queen of Scots in 1561, that she too could not marry anyone without triggering unrest in one group or another, only deepened following Mary Queen of Scots's disastrous marriages to Darnley and then Bothwell – which ended in her overthrow," explains Leanda de Lisle, author of *Tudor: The Family Story*. "Elizabeth continued to look publicly for a husband to fulfil national expectations that she would provide them with an undisputed heir, and surely she hoped it was not impossible. She was married to her kingdom – a phrase she had learned from Mary Tudor. But while Mary had married, Elizabeth did not because she feared revolt by those who disapproved of her choice."

Although she clearly wanted to marry the man that she had nicknamed her "frog," the English people found the idea of their Virgin Queen marrying a French Catholic absolutely repulsive. When a pamphlet appeared that condemned the union, Elizabeth decreed that both the author and his printer should have their right hands cut off. Her Privy Council was split in half, with the jealous Robert Dudley vehemently opposed.

MAIN PLAYERS OF
COUNCIL AND GOVERNMENT
WILLIAM CECIL
1520–98
A canny political operator who understood the difficulties that were ahead, Cecil was Elizabeth's first appointment and was fiercely loyal, dedicating his life to helping her. Although he believed she should marry, Elizabeth knew Cecil was invaluable and pressured him into staying on, even when he was sickly and deaf.
ROBERT DUDLEY
1532–88
Dudley had known Elizabeth since childhood, and was her first love. His appointment to court had more to do with her affection for him than any outstanding abilities as a politician, however, and his presence at court proved to be a continual source of rumour and scandal. Their relationship was rocky and driven by passion.
FRANCIS WALSINGHAM
1532–90
The Protestant Walsingham was allowed to return to England after Mary's death, and quickly became one of Elizabeth's most invaluable assets. A brilliant spymaster and politician, he understood the threat that Mary Queen of Scots posed, and engineered her downfall. He also supported Drake and Raleigh's explorations.
FAMILY
HENRY VIII
1491–1547
Henry was desperate for a boy to carry on his family name, and was disappointed when Anne Boleyn gave him Elizabeth. He was absent for much of her childhood, but was kept informed of her progress nonetheless. When he finally met his daughter he was very impressed, so much so that he reinstated her and Mary into his legacy.
MARY TUDOR
1516–58
Despite their differences, Mary, Elizabeth and their brother Edward had a relatively close relationship as children. When she became queen, Mary was desperate for Elizabeth to convert and unable to understand why she wouldn't. She came close to executing her sister, but abstained, finally requesting that she keep England Catholic.
CATHERINE PARR
1512–48
Catherine and Elizabeth became close during her marriage to Henry, and Elizabeth lived with Catherine after his death. However, Catherine's husband Thomas Seymour was more interested in their young charge than his wife, and she assisted in his attempts at seduction, dying soon after they failed.

THE GOLDEN AGE

EXPLORERS

JOHN HAWKINS
1532-95

Hawkins may have possessed a coat of arms, but he first managed to find favour with the Queen as a pirate. With Elizabeth's implicit permission, he planned and executed a series of daring raids on Spanish ports in the West Indies, but after a disastrous third voyage he returned to England, where he began working for the Queen in a more direct capacity.

FRANCIS DRAKE
1540-96

Having sailed on his cousin John Hawkins' expeditions, Francis Drake had no love for the Spanish. He was willing to circumnavigate the globe in order to rob them of their riches and deliver them to Elizabeth, who was delighted with his exploits, and continued to commission him to undertake raids on Spanish ports.

WALTER RALEIGH
1554-1618

Raleigh gained Elizabeth's favour at court and quickly set his sights on expanding her empire. He decided he would establish Britain's first colony in North America, and told the Queen it would be named after her: Virginia. To his great dismay, the colony at Roanoke failed. He is often falsely credited with bringing potatoes and tobacco to England.

ENEMIES

KING PHILIP II
1527-1598

The main religious threat to Elizabeth for the majority of her realm came from the King of Spain. The Pope might have given the bull that deposed Elizabeth but the fiercely Catholic Philip was the man with the army that could enforce it. He had attempted to woo the princess while still married to her sister but, once rebuffed, relentlessly opposed her.

JOHN WHITGIFT
1530-1604

As the issue of religious tolerance became increasingly difficult to manage, Elizabeth hand-picked her old chaplain for the role of Archbishop of Canterbury. He was a stubborn man, as evidenced by his refusal to leave England during Queen Mary's reign. Like Elizabeth, he was a Conformist and ruthlessly punished those who publicly strayed from the 'right' path.

POPE PIUS V
1504-72

As the head of the Roman Catholic Church, Pope Pius V saw Elizabeth's status of Queen of England and head of its church not only as an affront to his religion, but as an act of heresy. He went as far as to issue a Papal Bull on 27 April 1570, which declared that her subjects no longer owed her any kind of allegiance.

"SHE BITTERLY RESENTED THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF MARY'S EXECUTION"

Elizabeth was heartbroken, but she agreed to abstain. She gave Anjou £10,000 to continue his war against Philip in the Netherlands, but did not see him again. He tried to take power for himself but failed and died a year later.

When William the Silent was assassinated in his own house in 1584 by a Catholic fanatic, it was clear that military intervention could not be put off any longer and so in 1585, to the relief of her impatient councillors, she agreed to send a small force of men. Dudley took command in the Netherlands but proved to be incompetent, losing territory to Philip's general, the Duke of Parma. Mary was now more dangerous than ever. Elizabeth ordered her imprisonment at the urging of Francis Walsingham, who had no intention of allowing her to live much longer. He arranged for a servant, one of his own spies, to suggest that Mary smuggle letters in beer barrels, allowing Walsingham to read everything. When Thomas Babingdon wrote to Mary with a plan to assassinate Elizabeth and give her the crown Mary wrote back with her approval; the spymaster's trap had worked perfectly, and he had ensnared his unwitting prey.

Walsingham leapt into action and ordered the conspirators' execution. Elizabeth had always been reluctant to execute her cousin, but she agreed she would have to stand trial. It was no surprise when the court decided that Mary should be put to death. Elizabeth grieved for Mary, or at least lamented her death. The man who had delivered the warrant was imprisoned and stripped of his title. Elizabeth was always reluctant to sign a death

Mary Queen of Scots being led to her death

The Spanish Armada is put into disarray by English fire ships on 8 August 1588

The gun-crew on an Elizabethan ship - she funded the journeys of numerous privateers

warrant - or at least she was reluctant to be seen to sign it. We can't know how much of Elizabeth's grief was genuine, but she bitterly resented the circumstances of Mary's execution.

"Elizabeth was reluctant to be seen to execute first the senior nobleman in England, in Norfolk, and then a fellow queen, in Mary," says de Lisle. "That is not to say she regretted their deaths. She would have preferred to have Mary murdered, for example, as she made very clear. It is also notable that she was quite ruthless in ordering the deaths of traitors of humble birth - the 900 or so executed after the Northern Rebellion testifies to that. This was three times the numbers Henry VIII had executed after the far more serious Pilgrimage of Grace, and ten times the numbers Mary executed after Wyatt's revolt."

Mary's execution provided Philip II with the reason he needed to declare war and his Spanish Armada co-ordinated with the Duke of Parma's forces in the Netherlands, with the two forces meeting before sailing on England. They launched on 12 July 1588, their forces possessing more than twice the number of English ships, but the English ships did have some advantages; they were smaller, faster, and designed to carry guns rather than men. The English ships could outmanoeuvre the

"WITH THE THREAT OF A CATHOLIC FORCE AT THEIR DOOR, THE QUEEN RALLIED THE SPIRITS OF THE ENGLISH TROOPS"

Spanish fleet in open water and began to engage them in small skirmishes. It was at this point that Elizabeth rode out to meet her troops. With the threat of a Catholic force at their door, the Queen rallied the spirit of the English troops by declaring that she would fight by their side to repel anyone who dared to set foot on their land.

This grandstanding was impressive and may have gone down in history's annals but was ultimately unnecessary. The Spanish Armada failed and Elizabeth's victory was the seal on her status. 'The Golden Age' had begun, where art and literature flowered. With England a visibly powerful state, the aristocracy began to patronise the arts with great abandon. The famous playwrights of the age enjoyed patronage, albeit with some caveats. When Shakespeare wrote *Richard II* he was encouraged to remove a scene suggesting the ageing monarch should step aside. "Elizabeth did not care for plays," confirms de Lisle: "All too often they were used to lecture her on this or that."

Her crown may have been safe for now, but she received devastating blows with the deaths of two of her most trusted advisors, Dudley and Walsingham. Dudley was replaced at court by his handsome stepson, the Earl of Essex, and the young flatterer quickly became her favourite. "Robert Dudley's death in 1588 signalled the passing of the old order, but Elizabeth still hoped she could continue ruling according to her motto, 'Semper Eadem' ('Always the same')" explains de Lisle. "As the years began to pass and her servants died she either did not replace them or find a near-equivalent to the servant she had lost." It's

DID ENGLAND BECOME A NATION TO BE FEARED?

Elizabeth's foreign policy was decidedly more cautious than expansive. She was desperate to avoid conflict because it was expensive and the outcome always uncertain. However, she had a spirit that could easily be won over by the idea of adventure. She delighted in the expeditions of John Hawkins and Francis Drake, which could be seen to be aggravating the King of Spain without actually declaring open conflict. In 1562, she agreed to a military expedition in Calais, which was crushed by Catherine de' Medici's forces, and this failure would influence her military decisions for the rest of her reign.

"There was no glory in it for Elizabeth as there was for a male monarch," Leanda de Lisle reveals: "She understood the truth of the adage of Mary of Hungary: that war made it impossible for a woman to rule effectively, 'all she can do is shoulder responsibility for mistakes committed by others.'"

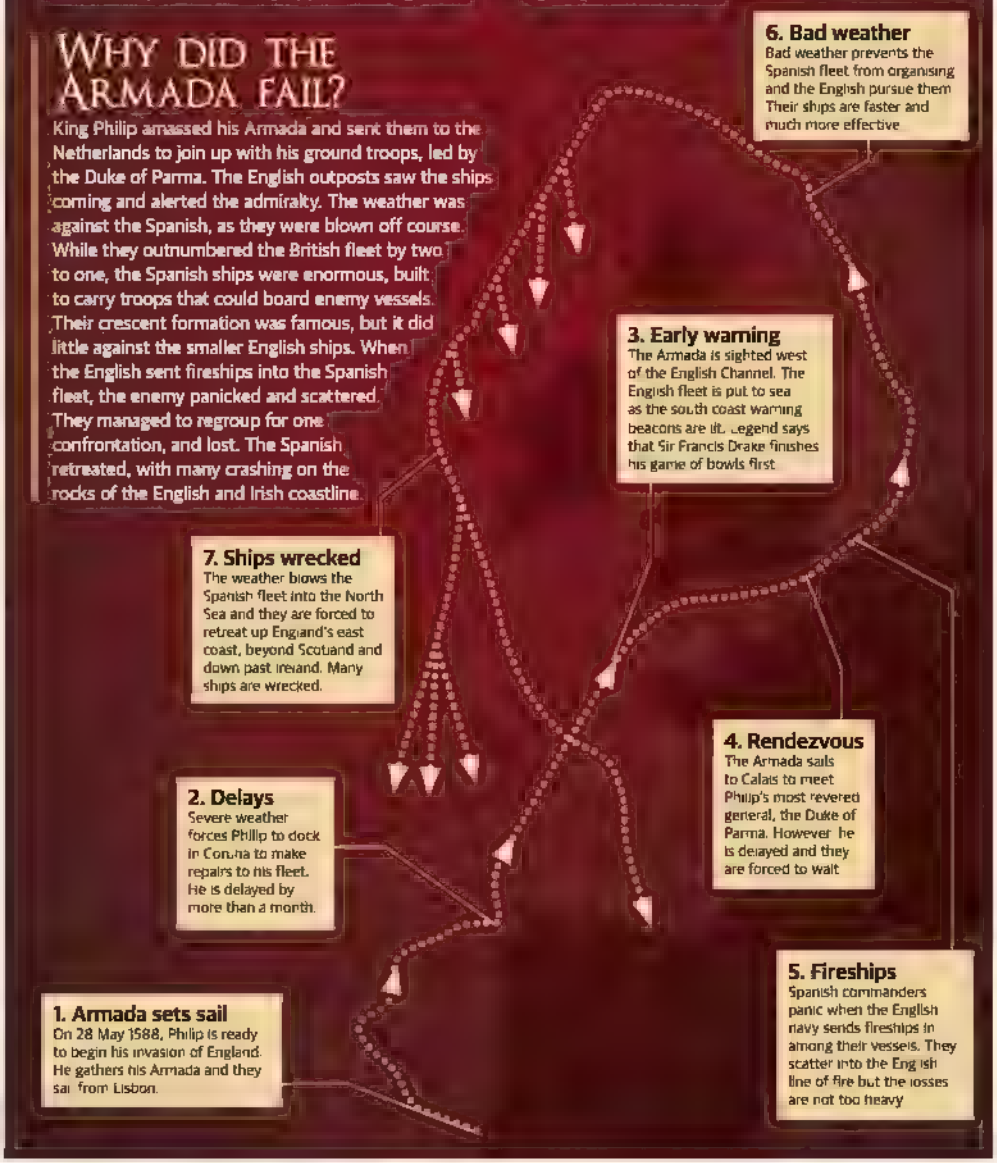
Her ally and enemy lines were drawn by religion. France and Spain were clearly opposed to England on these grounds, which is why her courtiers were so anxious that Elizabeth marry an eligible man from either country. Even after the St Bartholomew's Day Massacre in 1572, Elizabeth was reluctant to be drawn into open war. The piecemeal way in which she gave the Dutch her assistance shows her reluctance to engage in open conflict of any kind, first offering financial support to the Dutch troops, then the Duke of Anjou, before finally agreeing to send an English force when there was no other option. Her cautious attitude towards foreign policy doubtless saved the kingdom a lot of money. However, it was taken out of her hands when the Spanish Armada sailed on England."

VERDICT

The victory against the Armada was a shining moment but for the most part Elizabeth kept out of foreign conflict. When she didn't, she regularly suffered defeats.

WHY DID THE ARMADA FAIL?

King Philip amassed his Armada and sent them to the Netherlands to join up with his ground troops, led by the Duke of Parma. The English outposts saw the ships coming and alerted the admiralty. The weather was against the Spanish, as they were blown off course. While they outnumbered the British fleet by two to one, the Spanish ships were enormous, built to carry troops that could board enemy vessels. Their crescent formation was famous, but it did little against the smaller English ships. When the English sent fireships into the Spanish fleet, the enemy panicked and scattered. They managed to regroup for one confrontation, and lost. The Spanish retreated, with many crashing on the rocks of the English and Irish coastline.


1. Armada sets sail
On 28 May 1588, Philip is ready to begin his invasion of England. He gathers his Armada and they sail from Lisbon.
2. Delays
Severe weather forces Philip to dock in Corunna to make repairs to his fleet. He is delayed by more than a month.
3. Early warning
The Armada is sighted west of the English Channel. The English fleet is put to sea as the south coast warning beacons are lit. Legend says that Sir Francis Drake finishes his game of bowls first.
4. Rendezvous
The Armada sails to Calais to meet Philip's most revered general, the Duke of Parma. However he is delayed and they are forced to wait
5. Fireships
Spanish commanders panic when the English navy sends fireships in among their vessels. They scatter into the English line of fire but the losses are not too heavy
6. Bad weather
Bad weather prevents the Spanish fleet from organising and the English pursue them. Their ships are faster and much more effective
7. Ships wrecked
The weather blows the Spanish fleet into the North Sea and they are forced to retreat up England's east coast, beyond Scotland and down past Ireland. Many ships are wrecked.

a sign of how much she leaned on her old guard that she continued to place her trust in William Cecil, even though he was almost entirely deaf and increasingly ill. It was only when he died in 1598 that Elizabeth finally agreed to appoint Robert Cecil to his father's old post. When it became known that the Spanish were attempting to rebuild their fleet, Essex led a fleet on Cadiz and decimated their forces in port. The success gave Essex fame, something Elizabeth was taken aback by. She tried to curb him, aware that her standing among the people was her greatest asset, but Essex continued to promote his own celebrity. She became more and more frustrated with his outrageous behaviour at court, which came to a dramatic head when he half-drew his sword on her in a fit of pique.

The arts and literature may have been flourishing, but those who subscribe to this being a golden age in England's history often forget that even after the defeat of the Spanish Armada, other uprisings, such as the 1598 Irish rebellion, occurred. The country had long been a problem for Tudor England, which had attempted to impose English values and had seen the Irish as tenants on English territory. Now, with a Spanish-backed uprising, Elizabeth needed to take decisive action. She sent her army at the start of 1599, led by Essex, who was looking to prove himself once more. He was a disaster. Rather than confronting Tyrone on the battlefield, he met him in secret and returned to England having made a treaty without the queen's authority

When Essex thought Cecil was plotting against him, he rushed to plead his case. Assuming he was still the queen's favourite, he burst into her bedchamber while she was preparing for the day. He had seen Elizabeth without her make-up and regal dressing; not as a queen but as an old woman. She could not afford to be seen like this. The queen dismissed him before summoning him later to confront him with his failures and strip him of power. Rather than accepting his fate, Essex attempted rebellion. He assumed Londoners would back the popular war hero, but Elizabeth proclaimed him a traitor and sent her troops to meet him. The rebellion was a failure and Essex was executed as a traitor.

Although the later years of Elizabeth's reign were far from golden, she could still rally her people when needed. The war in Ireland was expensive and unsuccessful, while overcrowding and failed harvests caused agitation. When Parliament publicly condemned her for granting monopolies to her favourite courtiers, which had led to price-fixing, Elizabeth was forced to address them in 1601. She agreed to put a stop to the monopolies and she reaffirmed her love for England. She won over Parliament, there was a good harvest, and a truce was reached in Ireland and Spain. "Elizabeth, old and ill, did lose some of her former grip, but never entirely," states de Lisle. "She had followed Mary I's example in wooing the common people from the beginning of her reign, and they continued to support her."

Having seen off another uprising, the 50-year-old monarch's health was failing and after an all-too-rare period of good health, Elizabeth grew sickly She was desperately frustrated by Cecil's growing

DID PEACE REIGN IN ENGLAND?

The early years of Elizabeth's reign were extremely unstable. The Catholics regarded her as a heretical bastard without a just claim to the throne, and she had to prove to her people that she was capable of ruling alone. Conspiracies at home and abroad plotted to remove her from the throne, and when Mary, Queen of Scots took refuge in England, her Catholic enemies finally had someone to rally around. 1569 saw her face the first real uprising with the Northern Rebellion. The Earls of Westmorland and Northumberland rallied the rebel aristocracy around them, but they were not prepared for the force of her reprisal.

In her later years she saw rebellion rear its head again as Essex overstepped his bounds. With famine and overcrowded of cities, Elizabeth's position became unstable once again. "Imagine if Elizabeth had died in October 1562 when she had smallpox," asks de Lisle. "Elizabeth had been on the throne almost four years: only a year short of her sister's reign. If she died, as many feared she would, how would her reign have been remembered? Elizabeth's religious settlement was not viewed as settled by anyone save the Queen. One of her own bishops called it 'a leaden mediocrity'. In military matters, while Mary I's loss of Calais is still remembered, Elizabeth's failed efforts to recover Calais by taking Le Havre and using it as a bargaining tool are completely forgotten. The campaign had ended that August 1562, with the huge loss of 2,000 men."

VERDICT

Elizabeth's reign featured numerous rebellions and uprisings, but this was not unusual for a Tudor monarch, and given the religious uncertainty in the country at the time, she handled the uprisings quickly and decisively.

REBELLIONS AGAINST ELIZABETH

When Elizabeth ascended to the throne she immediately faced the threat of rebellion from the Catholic nobility, who resented the fact that she was turning away from the changes made by her sister Mary. The first great uprising came in 1569, when the northern noblemen took advantage of the return of Mary, Queen of Scots to England, and attempted to overthrow her. The Duke of Norfolk, unhappy with being sidelined by the Earl of Dudley, entertained a marriage plot with Mary, while the northern Earls mounted rebellion. It was summarily crushed and hundreds were executed.

The Earl of Essex, Elizabeth's great favourite, attempted a rebellion in 1601 after he was stripped of his powers in an attempt to gain power. In line with his apparently oversized ego, he overestimated his personal popularity, the people's dissatisfaction with their monarch and his Queen's capacity for forgiveness for one of her former favourites. When Elizabeth was confronted with open defiance she rarely hesitated to crush it. She understood when to be brutal and when to charm. With the rebellions against her she was unforgiving and generally unsparing.

> "SHE WOOED HER PEOPLE WITH SMILES, WORDS OF LOVE AND GREAT SHOWMANSHIP, AND SO WON THEIR HEARTS"

ELIZABETH'S GOLDEN MOMENTS

5. 1587
Elizabeth is forced to execute Mary Queen of Scots, which is the final straw for Catholic Spain

7. 1601
Following famine and controversy over her granting monopolies to her favourites, Elizabeth gives her 'Golden Speech' to a furious Parliament and wins them over

2. 1566
Elizabeth announces to a Parliament desperate to see her choose a husband that she is married to England.

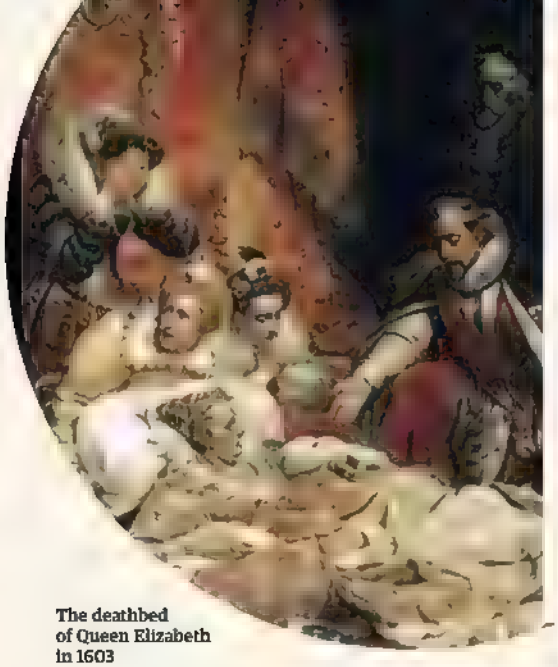
1550 1555 1560 1565 1570 1575 1580 1585 1590 1595 1600 1605

1. 1559
Elizabeth is crowned Queen of England. Everyone watches to see if she displays a Protestant leaning but the ceremony is ambiguous

3. 1569
The Northern Rebellion is crushed. Elizabeth brutally punishes those responsible and sends a shocking reminder to anyone who would challenge her

4. 1577
Francis Drake circumnavigates the globe and returns with boats filled with riches stolen from the King of Spain

6. 1588
The Spanish Armada sails for England, but is decisively defeated. Elizabeth delivers her famous Tilbury speech from horseback, which becomes legend



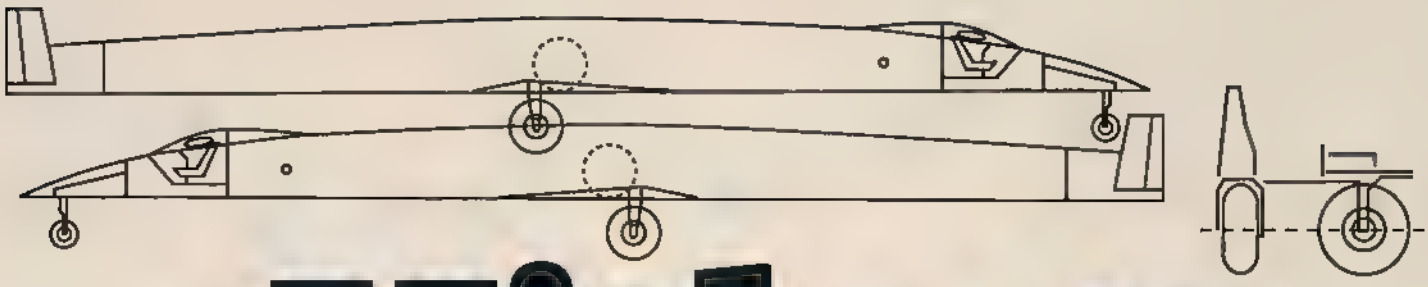
The deathbed of Queen Elizabeth in 1603

power over her and refused to go to bed as she realised that the end was coming soon. Elizabeth finally died on 23 March 1603.

Although she had struggled to change with the times in the face of younger advisors, she had been a formidable political operator. She had still shown the cunning and cleverness to understand her situation, and had never lost the image of a queen loved by her people.

"That image was not created for her," explains de Lisle. "Elizabeth never forgot the events of 1553 when the ordinary people had backed the Tudor sisters, while the political elite had supported Jane Grey. Nor did she forget how in 1554, Mary had made a speech at the Guildhall that roused London in her defence against the Wyatt rebellion. Mary had spoken of her marriage to her kingdom, describing her coronation ring as a wedding band, and her love of her subjects as that of a mother for her children. These were the phrases and motifs Elizabeth would use repeatedly and would become absolutely central to her reign. In addition, Elizabeth also had an instinct for the crowd's demands. Even her enemies would admit she had 'the power of enchantment'. She wooed her people with smiles, words of love and great showmanship, and so won their hearts. Elizabeth's people would never forget her. When she died and James I become king, people hugely missed the Tudor theatre of reciprocal love, of which Elizabeth had been the last and brightest star."

Elizabeth's reign was not the golden age that legend so often depicts; she faced serious uprisings, both internal and external, during her reign. She was capable of heartlessness and ruthlessness, and could be indecisive and impetuous. During the course of her rule, England saw famine, rebellion and war. However, there's no mistaking her dedication to her country and her determination to listen to what the people wanted from her – and then give it to them. She walked a political tightrope for most of her life, and the fact that she died peacefully in her bed as queen was a major triumph in itself. The English people loved her, and she, in turn, loved them. In the hearts and minds of many of her subjects, she was – and will always be – Britain's golden monarch.

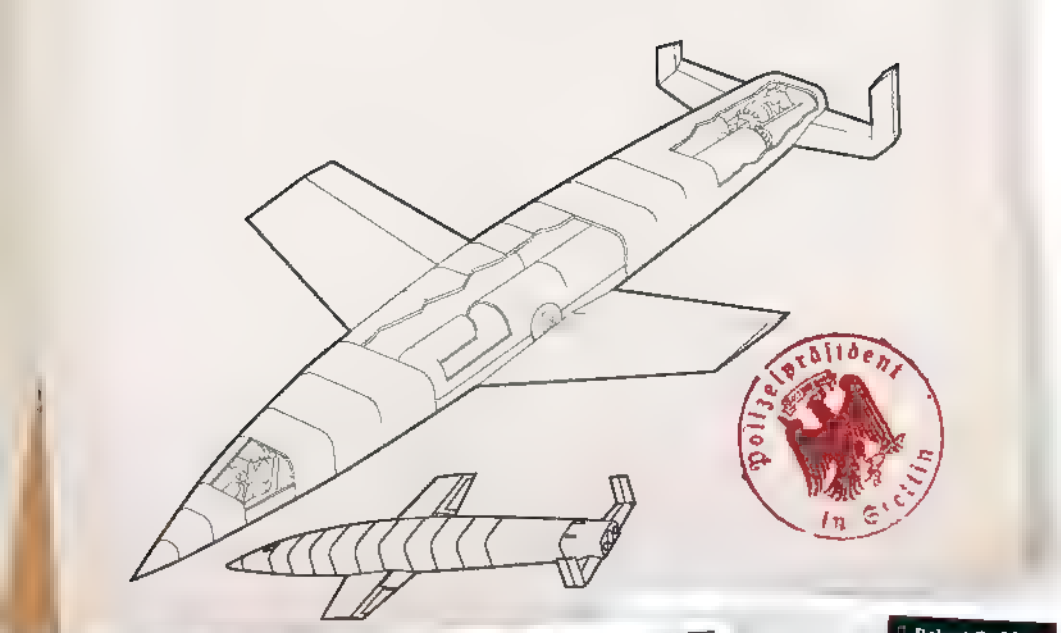


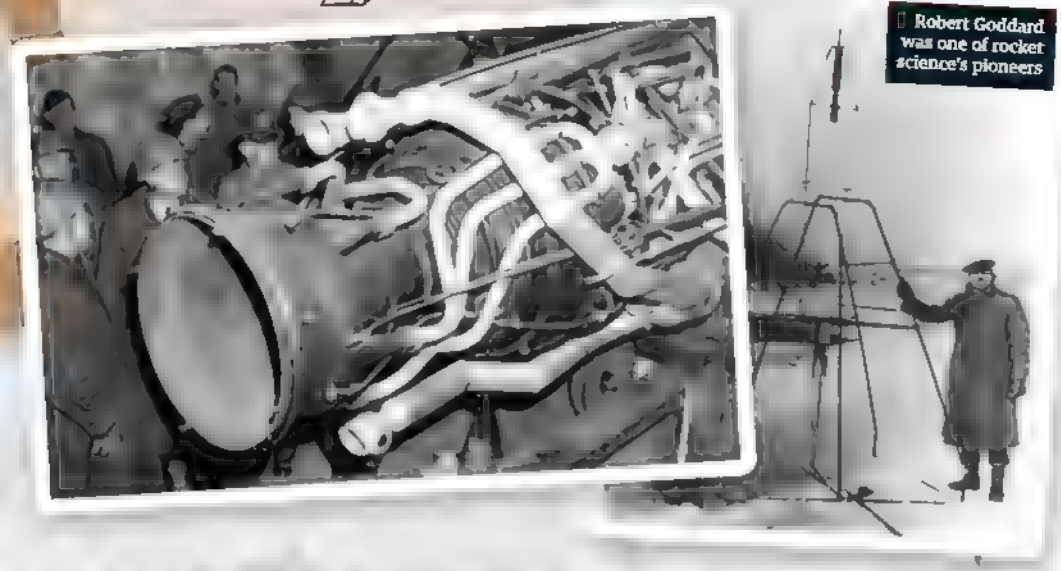
Hitler's astronauts

The rise and fall of the Nazi rocket programme that threatened to terrorise the world

Written by Jonny O'Callaghan

Over a 100 of Hitler's rocket scientists at Peenemünde, including Wernher von Braun





Robert Goddard was one of rocket science's pioneers

In the Twenties and Thirties a young German rocket scientist by the name of Wernher von Braun had dreams of exploring the stars. He was not alone; hundreds of engineers were starting to identify themselves as 'rocket scientists', taking theoretical proposals of manned space exploration and turning them into full-fledged concepts. Before the outbreak of World War II, Hitler learned of their research and, more specifically, the terrible devastation their rockets could wreak on Germany's enemies. Before long, many of these rocket scientists were enlisted in the construction of so-called unfathomable weapons that would terrorise their enemies.

Throughout the war, Hitler was infatuated with 'miracle weapons', those advanced pieces of technology he believed could sway the war in Germany's favour. Among them, the Nazis developed some terrifyingly advanced machinery, including heavy Tiger tanks, assault rifles and infrared night vision sights. Rockets, however, were a technology of which little was known by any nation, but once their devastating potential was realised, Hitler was quick to allocate funding to the programme.

The roots of modern rocketry stem back to 1914 when US physicist Robert Goddard published two patents, one describing a multi-stage rocket and the other explaining the principles of liquid-fuelled rocketry. These are regarded as two of the most important milestones in space exploration as they laid the groundwork for how it could be possible to send objects into space.

Goddard continued his research for the next few years, including the development of a primitive bazooka for the US to employ in World War I against enemy tanks. In 1919 he published a revolutionary piece of work, *A Method of Reaching Extreme Altitudes*, which put his theories of rocket flight and the experiments he had carried out thus far to paper. He devoted a small section of the publication to his belief that a rocket based on his design could ultimately reach the Moon. He was ridiculed in US newspapers for such a claim, including an infamous editorial in the *New York Times* that incorrectly asserted such rocket travel in the vacuum of space was impossible. Approximately five decades later they printed a retraction when mankind landed on the Moon.

Goddard's ideas may have received negative press, but he had piqued the interest of scientists worldwide, especially in Germany. In 1922, Austro-Hungarian-born German physicist Hermann Oberth wrote to Goddard to ask for a copy of his publication, so he himself might further his research into liquid-fuelled rockets. Goddard obliged, and Oberth published his own work on rocket travel into outer space in the following year. By 1929 Oberth had tested his first liquid-fuelled motor, assisted by the 18-year-old Wernher von Braun. Von Braun would later say of Oberth: "I, myself, owe to him not only the guiding star of my

life, but also my first contact with the theoretical and practical aspects of rocketry and space travel."

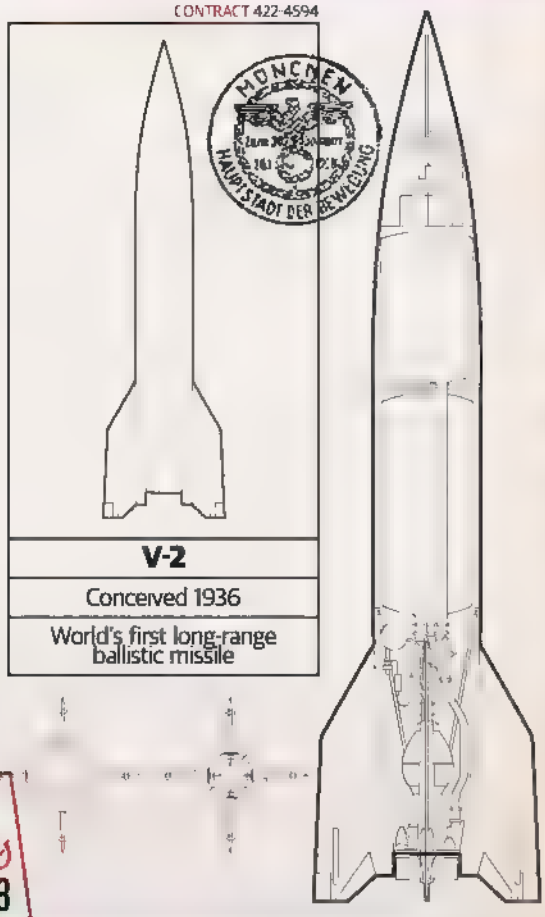
Oberth's work had inspired countless rocket enthusiasts in Germany, resulting in the formation of several amateur rocketry societies. Perhaps the most notable was Verein für Raumschiffahrt (VfR), or the 'Society for Space Travel' in English. The association was established in 1927 and Oberth and von Braun were early members. Beginning in 1930, the VfR requested funding from the German army for rocket experiments – military development in Germany was restricted by the Treaty of Versailles, but rocketry was not inhibited. Thus their request was granted, and in 1930 they successfully tested a more powerful version of Oberth's earlier rocket motor at an abandoned ammunition dump in Berlin. By 1932 they had developed and flown a rocket that could reach a height of over one kilometre (0.62 miles). When the army asked the group to sign a contract for a demonstration launch, however, the group became divided and was eventually dissolved in 1933.

By now the German army was becoming increasingly interested in the development and applications of rockets. They had already set up a test facility just south of Berlin, in Kummersdorf, under the direction of German artillery officer Walter Dornberger, and by 1934 von Braun was actively working alongside Dornberger in the development of a liquid-fuelled rocket. Von Braun was soon given his own team to lead and at the end of 1934 they had launched two rockets, known as the A-2, with the latter reaching a new record height of 3.5 kilometres (2.2 miles).

By 1937 the facility was becoming too limited for the wildly ambitious tests planned by the team of rocket scientists. One such project was the development of a plane that was propelled through rocket power alone, as opposed to a front-facing propeller. Thus the team were moved to Neuhardenberg, an open area 110 kilometres (70 miles) east of Berlin. On 3 June 1937, they flew a modified Heinkel HE 112 plane that, for part of its flight flown by test pilot Erich Warsitz, was propelled solely by a rocket on the rear of the plane. Although this particular concept was not advanced much further, it proved to Hitler and the Nazi Party that rockets had useful practical applications and, following German military expansion, the Nazis established a dedicated centre of rocketry at Peenemünde where these technologies could be further researched and developed. On 2 April 1936, the Reich Aviation Ministry had purchased the northern peninsula of Usedom, a Baltic island on the border of Germany and Poland. Here, the village of Peenemünde was transformed into an unprecedented research

"The Nazis made the decision to create a dedicated centre of rocketry at Peenemünde"

A V-2 fired by the British from a launch pad near Cuxhaven in Germany during Operation Backfire in 1945



V-2: the weapon that terrorised Britain 1944-1945

Originally known as the Aggregate-4 (A-4), the V-2 was the world's first ranged ballistic missile and a weapon that Nazi Germany used extensively against the Allies in the latter stages of the war. The V-2 was also the first man-made device to cross the official boundary of 100km (62mi) into space.

The liquid-fuelled rocket was developed by the various scientists and engineers at Peenemünde under the direction of Wernher von Braun. The V-2 was 14m (46ft) tall and could reach speeds several times greater than the speed of sound, making it all but unstoppable. It was launched to a height of at least 88km (55mi), although often higher and into space, before dropping down with four fins directing it towards its target. However, its accuracy was limited.

A V-2 on display in Antwerp, Belgium

The first V-2 attacks were on Paris and London on 8 September 1944. The explosions came without warning, leaving victims defenceless. Over 3,200 V-2 rockets were launched against various targets, mostly in Antwerp and London. In Britain V-2 attacks killed over 6,000 people and injured nearly 18,000. As a countermeasure the British would leak false intelligence, saying the V-2s had struck further into mainland England than they actually had, causing the Nazis to recalibrate them and thus strike short of their targets, with varying levels of success

facility called the Heeresversuchsanstalt Peenemünde (HVP), or 'Peenemünde Army Research Centre.'

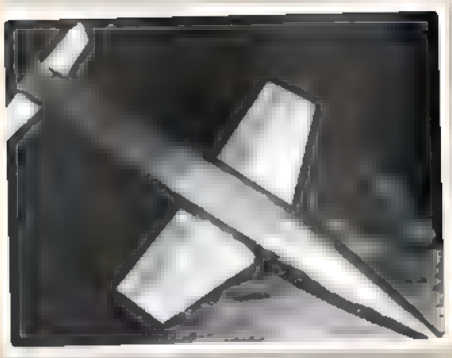
Peenemünde is regarded as the birthplace of modern rocket science. Here, Hitler assembled as many rocket scientists and engineers as he could and banned civilian rocket tests – only military deployments of rockets were allowed. The apprehension of these scientists to produce weapons of war, however, is well documented. Many of them still retained a hope that such developments were just a precursor to more scientific and peaceful endeavours, characterised by another quote from von Braun: "We always considered the development of rockets for military purposes as a roundabout way to get into space." Spaceflight historian Amy Teitel, however, thinks the Nazis didn't ever have such ambitions: "I think we can safely say that their use of space would have been military. The A-10 and the hypersonic glider, had either been built, would have used space as a sort of obstacle-free path to bombing their enemies."

Von Braun and his team carried on the work they had already begun on the Aggregate rocket family and set about building the A-3 rocket, which would be a marked improvement on von Braun's earlier A-2 rocket. Despite multiple failures, they were ultimately able to build a rocket that could reach a height of 18 kilometres (11 miles). The true breakthrough, however, came with the next in the series: the devastating A-4.

The A-4, which would become known as the V-2 rocket, Vergeltungswaffe 2 (Vengeance Weapon 2), featured a redesigned engine that allowed for a payload of 1,000 kilograms (2,200 pounds) to be carried on board. Up until 1941 the team at Peenemünde carried out extensive testing of the V-2 until they successfully launched the first in March 1942. It worked by launching to the edge of space, to an altitude of over 80 kilometres (50 miles), higher than any rocket that preceded it. In 1943, full-scale production began on the rocket, and by 1944 it was being used against Germany's enemies to devastating effect.

Despite its terrifying potential, the V-2 would become the cornerstone on which almost all future space programmes were built after the war. At the time, no other nation had been able to emulate the success of von Braun's team at Peenemünde. By the end of the war they would become one of the most sought-after commodities of both the United States and the Soviet Union. The V-2, however, was just the first in a series of planned rockets. While research and production of the rocket was ramped up in the early Forties, von Braun and his team had already been investigating the possibility of further improving the series, building rockets that reached further into space and thus had a much longer range, giving Hitler the rocket he wanted to strike around the globe.

Von Braun and his team realised that by adding wings to the rockets they could greatly increase their range. Thus they devised the A-9, a modified



Eugen Sänger

1905 1964

Eugen Sänger was an Austrian aerospace engineer who studied civil engineering and aeronautics. He was a member of the German amateur rocket society Verein für Raumschiffahrt (VfR) and was inspired by the works of Hermann Oberth.

In the early Thirties he attempted to publish his thesis on rocket-powered flight but it was rejected for being too fanciful. Instead, he published a more reserved paper describing the physics of wing trusses. In 1935, however, he did publish his initial thesis, which garnered the attention of the Reich Aviation Ministry. He was given a research institute near Braunschweig in Germany, where he could work on a design he had formulated for a winged bomber that could strike the United States with deadly force. This would later be known as the Amerika Bomber, although at the time it was called the Silbervogel.

Sänger led the team that researched the possibility of the Silbervogel being used to skim along the atmosphere in a series of sub-orbital hops before descending and dropping a bomb on its target. He designed revolutionary rocket engines for the plane, which used the circulation of fuel to cool the engines. His work was not completed by the end of World War II, however, and the plane never took flight.

Von Braun

1912 1977

Wernher von Braun is the man often credited with being the 'father of rocket science'. As a student he was fascinated by space travel, and read Hermann Oberth's work on the subject extensively. In 1930 he joined the VfR where he had the opportunity to work with and learn from Oberth.

In 1934 von Braun was awarded his doctorate in physics, specialising in aerospace engineering, from the University of Berlin. Publicly, his thesis was called *About Combustion Tests*. However, this turned out to be but a small part of a larger thesis he had written, titled *Construction, Theoretical, and Experimental Solution to the Problem of the Liquid Propellant Rocket*, which was kept classified and not published until 1960. His thesis had a profound effect on the army which, realising his potential, gave him his own team of engineers and scientists to direct at Kummersdorf. He was later put in charge of the rocket scientists at the Peenemünde research station.

After the war, von Braun surrendered to the US and became the director of NASA in the Sixties, where he oversaw the successful manned missions to space and ultimately the Moon. His story is a somewhat controversial one, as his involvement with the Nazi regime saw him develop a rocket that terrorised Allied countries. But his contributions to peaceful space exploration were plain to see.

V-2 rocket with fins on the side that enabled it to strike targets over 800 kilometres (500 miles) away after crossing the boundary into space, later known as the Kármán line, 100 kilometres (62 miles) high. The A-9 and subsequent rocket designs would ultimately never leave the ground, but their potential was plain to see.

Building upon this work was the A-10, which can be regarded as one of the world's first multi-stage rockets. About 20 metres (65 feet) tall and weighing over 16,000 kilograms (35,000 pounds), this was a modified V-2 rocket with multiple engines, on top of which would be the A-9 rocket. The two-stage rocket would separate once it reached space, leaving the A-9 to deliver its payload to a target over 500 kilometres (310 miles) away. After launching, the A-10 would descend back to Earth via parachutes, allowing it to be recovered and re-used for further launches.

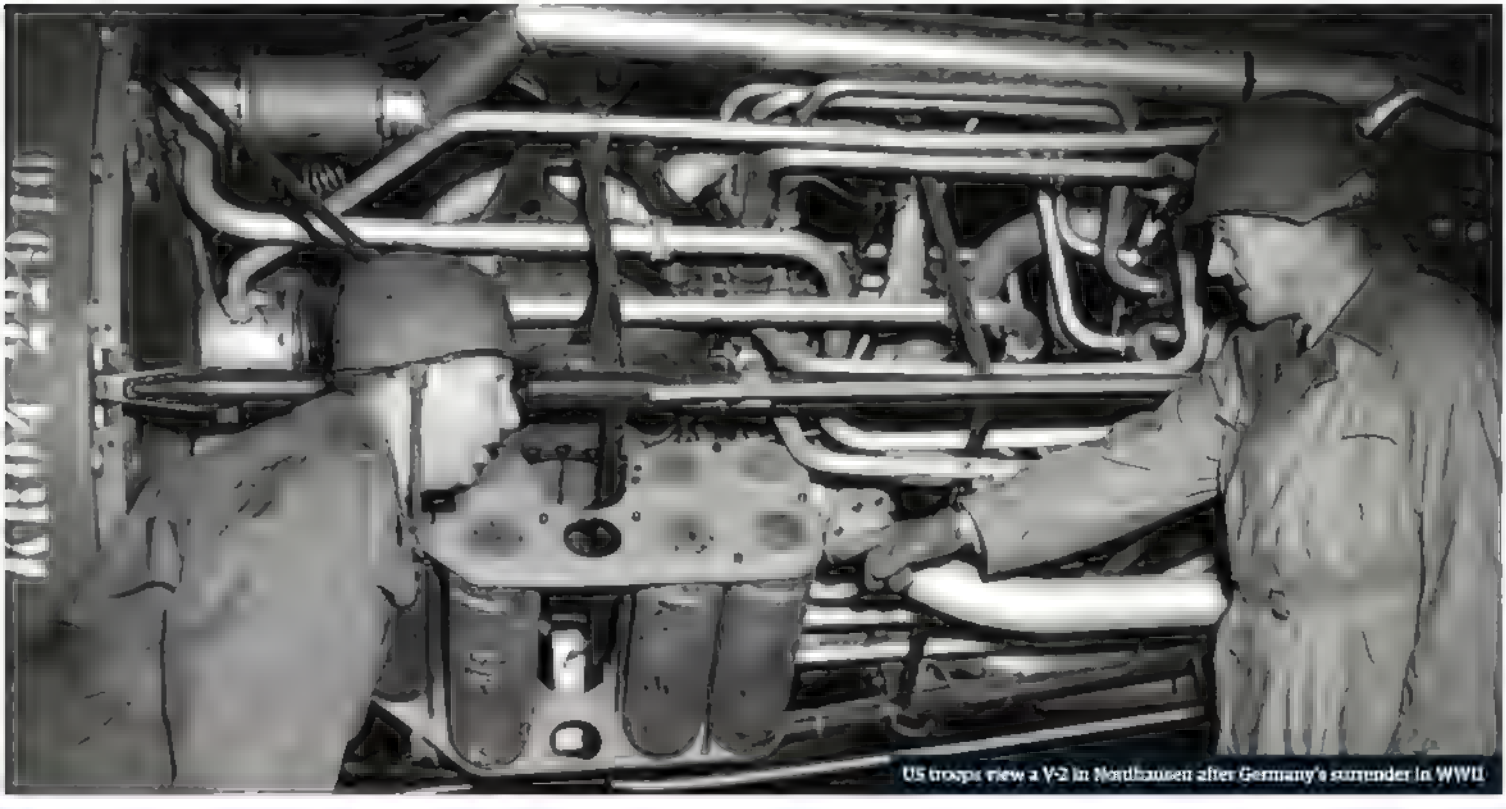
The ultimate goal of the A-9 and A-10 was to be able to attack the US with launches from Europe.

"Hitler was infatuated with 'miracle weapons', advanced tech threatening to sway the war in Germany's favour"

In 1940 and 1941, Hermann Oberth worked on the design. Oberth and his fellow engineers encountered a key problem, though. In attempting to design a rocket that could travel over 5,000 kilometres (3,100 miles) to the US, they were unable to perfect a guiding system that would enable the rocket to accurately hit its target. The suggestion to use a string of radio beacons on both sea and land was considered, but would require men on the ground in the US to 'paint' targets with such beacons.

Instead they came up with a radical design, one that had not been seriously considered before. If they could modify the A-9 rocket to include a pressurised cockpit, they could place a pilot in the rocket and have them manually fly it to its destination. An ejection seat would enable the pilot to escape shortly before the impact. In doing so, with the rocket crossing the boundary into space, the team at Peenemünde were unwittingly designing the first spacecraft that would take the world's first astronaut into space.

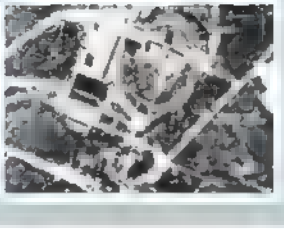
The design, of course, was hugely ambitious. At the time nothing was known of human spaceflight and it was not until 1951 that the Soviet Union sent animals into space. If such an endeavour were to be successful, it's likely any early pilots would almost certainly be throwing their lives away before the technology was perfected. Analysis of von Braun and his team's plans after the war



US troops view a V-2 in Nordhausen after Germany's surrender in WWII

The 10-step Nazi space plan

1. Peenemünde
Von Braun and his compatriots needed a dedicated centre from which they could research and develop rockets; they got it in 1937 with the construction of Peenemünde.

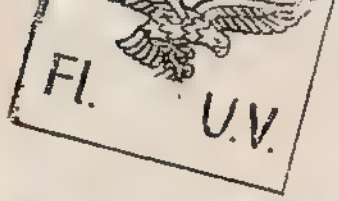


2. Getting into space
The first goal to prove space travel was possible was to build a rocket that could launch beyond the boundary of space, which was successfully shown with the A-4 (V-2) rocket.

3. Multi-stage rocket
Von Braun and his team at Peenemünde recognised the need for a multi-stage rocket, called the A-9, that could propel itself to much greater heights in order to reach further into space.

4. Rocket plane
To satiate the need for weaponry to secure funding, a rocket plane was devised that would launch atop a larger rocket, not unlike a space shuttle, delivering a warhead to a distant target.

5. Launch satellites
Many of the scientists at Peenemünde understood the need to launch unmanned satellites into orbit to study exactly what effects the vacuum of space would have on a human astronaut

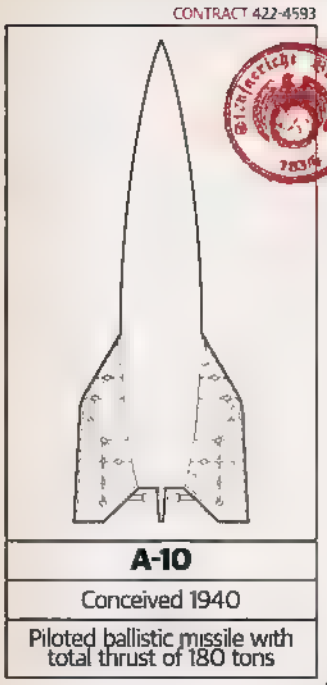


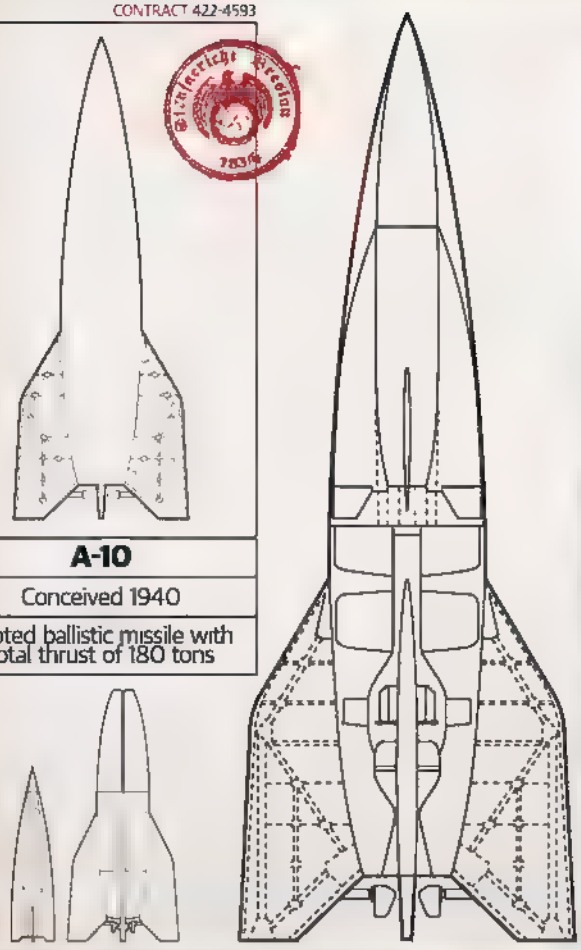
A-10 rocket

The A-10 was to be a rocket capable of attacking the United States from across the Atlantic. Hitler was intent on conquering the globe and being able use rockets to strike the US would have greatly helped the Nazi cause

Under the codename Projekt Amerika, the rocket scientists at Peenemünde were responsible for researching and testing this planned rocket. It would have used a huge engine to reach space, comparable to the engine that was ultimately used on NASA's Saturn V rocket to go to the Moon, in order to drop down and travel at speeds of up to 4,300km/h (2,700mph).

However, without a sufficient guiding system the rocket was considered impractical for long-range use against the US. Thus, there were supposedly some discussions to attach a smaller manned version of the A-9 rocket on top of the A-10, allowing a pilot to guide the rocket in order to strike a target more than 5,000km (3,100mi) away. The entire A-10 rocket would have been about 20m (65ft) tall, but when focus was shifted towards the V-2 rocket toward the end of the war, development of the A-10 was halted Ironically enough, some of its key features were incorporated into later US rockets





showed that if they had attempted such missions, they would have likely ended in disaster. For one thing, they had vastly underestimated the forces of re-entry that would be experienced by the A-9 rocket as it returned from space and passed through Earth's atmosphere. Based on what we know today, and the primitive design of the A-9 that did not include a sufficient heat shield (a necessary component of modern spacecraft), the rocket would have been torn apart long before it reached its target.

There are some suggestions, however, that von Braun and his team did not want to stop here. "It was von Braun's dream to build rockets and launch them into space as a way to explore the cosmos," says Teitel. "I'm of the opinion that he used the Nazi war machine as a way to further his research with nearly bottomless funding." Although they had been enlisted to build so-called 'miracle weapons' by Hitler, von Braun and his team still maintained the belief that if Germany won the war they might be given the opportunity to fly rockets with more peaceful aims.

Thus the next phases in the Aggregate rocket family were put on paper but never developed. Following the A-10 von Braun and his team had visions of the world's first three-stage rocket, the A-11, and later the four-stage A-12. Whereas the V-2 and other Aggregate rockets were intended only for suborbital flights, ie those that 'hop' into space but don't have the required velocity to stay there, these latter two would be true orbital rockets. As the war dragged on and defeat for Germany seemed all but inevitable these ambitious plans were shelved in favour of ramped-up production and development of the V-2 rocket in order to strike against their foes. The Nazi rocketeers' dreams of space exploration would have to be shelved until after the war's conclusion.

The brains at Peenemünde were not just working on rockets. By February 1936, an Austrian known as Dr. Eugen Sänger had published two articles on rocket-powered aircraft, similar to the modified Heinkel HE 112 von Braun and his team would fly a year later. Known as the Silbervogel ('Silver Bird'), Sänger's design was for a plane that made hops into sub-orbital space in order to travel vast distances in a short amount of time. He piqued the interest of German High Command, who enlisted him to further his research in the hope he could devise a vehicle capable of striking the US. The Nazi leaders didn't want any work to be done on rockets for exploration - for them

6. Manned rocket
Once the obstacle of automated rockets had been overcome, the next step would be to place a pilot inside the rocket plane and have them eject before reaching their designated target.

7. Space plane
The Silbervogel was a further development that would allow a pilot to skirt Earth's atmosphere and remain in space for extended periods of time.

8. Space station
Austro-Hungarian engineer Herman Potočnik was fascinated by the idea of space stations, and in 1928 published a book outlining the need for such a station for extended space travel.

9. Space mirror
German engineer Hermann Oberth was supposedly intrigued by the idea of building a giant mirror in space to harness the power of the Sun and beam it to Earth.

10. Moon mission
The ultimate dream of the rocket scientists at Peenemünde was to land humans on the Moon through the use of the technology they would have previously perfected.

Hitler's rocket obsession

At first, Hitler was not enamoured with von Braun's rocket technology. On 23 March 1939, the Führer visited a rocket facility for the first time, and it is reported that he was thoroughly unimpressed by the static rocket engine tests he was shown and von Braun's research at Peenemünde was allowed to continue only on the insistence of other high-ranking Third Reich officials.

It was not until July 1943, when Germany had definitively lost the Battle of Britain and the Luftwaffe was faltering, that Hitler began to show interest in rocket technology. Having been shown footage of an A-4 (later the V-2) rocket launch, Hitler moved the missile research at Peenemünde to the top of the Third Reich's military agenda.

Perhaps, too, it was the prospect of these rockets firing further than any weapon in existence that enticed Hitler. Toward the end of the war, despite defeat staring Nazi Germany bleakly in the face, he was still pining for strikes against the US to begin his global conquest in earnest. Here was a device that could be launched into space from Western Europe before dropping on the United States' east coast with devastating effects.

Hitler ordered mass production of the V-2 to strike targets such as London, but it is likely that he allowed research into some of the more fanciful technologies such as the Silbervogel in the hope one of them would have the means necessary to attack the U.S. Nicknaming the Silbervogel the Amerika Bomber seemed to play exactly on this particular obsession.

"There is evidence that von Braun knew toward the end of the war that rockets were the way of the future"

rockets and potential ventures into space were only useful if it helped them reap mass destruction on their enemies and win the war.

The Silbervogel was a flattened plane that used a rocket engine to reach heights beyond 145 kilometres (90 miles), well beyond the boundary of space. It would have been by far the highest-reaching man-made object in existence at the time had it ever flown. Once reaching its maximum altitude, the plane was intended to 'bounce' along the atmosphere before descending, dropping its carried bomb on a target as much as 23,500 kilometres (15,000 miles) away. Inside would have been another of Hitler's astronauts, flying the plane to its target in the US before heading to a landing site, most likely in the Japanese-held Pacific Ocean, as it would be unable to return directly to Germany.

However, like so many ambitious plans of the Nazi space programme, it never saw the light of day. Like the rockets designed and built by those at Peenemünde, the Silbervogel highlighted the rocket scientists' poor understanding of re-entry heat. Had a flight of the Silbervogel ever been attempted, it is more than likely it would have perished on its first attempt at re-entering Earth's atmosphere. Still, the Silbervogel was hugely influential in the future of space exploration. Its lifting body design, the first of its kind, directly inspired some of the space planes researched and the developed by the US, including the hugely successful space shuttles.

By 1945, the Americans and the Soviets were both abundantly aware of the genius of the scientists at Peenemünde creating machines no one in the world could match. By the spring of 1945, however, it became clear that the Soviets would almost certainly be the first to reach Peenemünde and thus enlist the scientists into their own programmes. This terrified the Americans; they did not want the Soviet Union having access to technologies that far exceeded anything they were able to replicate. SO in 1945, the US executed Operation Paperclip, a programme to recruit the scientists of Nazi Germany that had researched and developed the 'miracle weapons'. Von Braun and his team had unwittingly become one of the most sought-after post-war trophies. Under Operation Paperclip, the Americans drew up a 'Black List' of top scientists they considered of the utmost importance. Among them, of course, was Wernher von Braun.

"There is evidence that von Braun knew toward the end of the war that rockets were the way of the future," says Teitel. "He used his vision and expertise as a bargaining chip to get himself somewhere where he could keep working and ultimately launch satellites and men." Von Braun and his team had heard the horror stories of Soviet prisoners, and they did not want to be subjected to that sort of brutality. They had a decision to make; see out the war and await almost certain capture by the Soviets, or make a daring escape and try to find Americans to whom they could surrender. They chose the latter, and in doing so perhaps created the balance that would enable the space race between the US and Soviet Union of the Fifties and Sixties to play out on a level playing field, as the Soviets were first to Peenemünde, acquiring the wealth of information the scientists had left behind there.

In April 1945, von Braun was sitting on as many as ten separate orders from German High Command, who in turn were unsure what to do with their prized rocket scientists. Some of the directives ordered them to the front line to join the battle against the invading Soviet forces. Others urged them to retreat further into Germany. Von Braun used the latter option as an excuse to transfer himself and hundreds of his staff towards Mittelverk, a factory used to manufacture the V-2 rocket in the state of Thuringia, Germany. They made their way to the village Oberammergau, where they came across US troops. Von Braun sent his younger brother Magnus to offer their surrender. As news of von Braun's surrender filtered through, the Americans put Operation Paperclip into full effect. Despite the efforts of British intelligence to interrogate von Braun and his team themselves to learn some of the information they carried, the Americans swiftly transported the Peenemünde rocket scientists to Texas in the United States.

The US now possessed the most brilliant rocket scientists of the 20th century, the men who had dreamed of sending astronauts into space but found themselves building weapons of war. Despite their ties to the Nazi party, the US realised their importance and many of the Peenemünde scientists were imperative to the US space programme. Most notably, from July 1960 to February 1970 von Braun was the first director for the newly established National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA. Among a string of successes in the Sixties using the rocketry expertise of the Peenemünde scientists, they would achieve the dream they had never thought possible three decades earlier on 21 July 1969, when mankind walked on the surface of the Moon for the first time.

© Alamy NASA, Spiegel, Adrian Mann, Jan Bella, Archivio

NEXT ISSUE

What's around the corner for All About History?

10 DIRTIEST TRICKS OF WWII

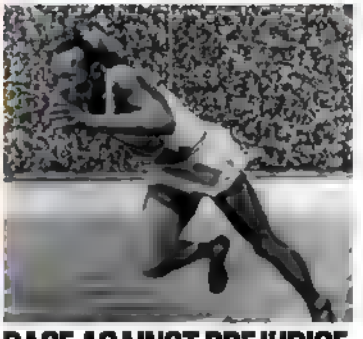
Poison gas, exploding briefcases and animals trained to attack the enemy

FIRST MAN ON THE MOON

Eyewitness account from inside NASA's control centre

ALEXANDER THE GREAT

How one man conquered most of the known world



RACE AGAINST PREJUDICE

How Jesse Owens showed the world the folly of Hitler's ideals

PLUS: Piazza di Spagna **Spanish civil war** Killing for honour **Battle of Marathon** Robin Hood **War of the Roses** Pericles **Heroes of democracy**

ALL ABOUT HISTORY

Imagine Publishing Ltd
Richmond House, 33 Richmond Hill
Bournemouth, Dorset, BH2 6EZ
☎ +44 (0) 1202 586200
Web: www.imagine-publishing.co.uk
www.greatdigitalmags.com
www.historyanswers.co.uk

Magazine team

Editor Andy Brown
andrew.brown@imagine-publishing.co.uk
☎ 01202 586260

Editor in Chief Dave Harfield
Senior Art Editor Helen Harris
Research Editor Jackie Snowden
Sub Editor Erlingur Einarsson
Designer Benjamin Stanley
Photographer James Sheppard
Head of Publishing Aaron Asadi
Head of Design Ross Andrews

Contributors
Chris Fenton, Tim Williamson, James Hoare, Jonny O'Callaghan, Robert Jones, Steve Wright, Erlingur Einarsson, Matthew Bennett Jonathan Hatfull, James Moore, Ben Biggs, Phil Morris

Cover Image
Joe Cummings Alamy

Images
Alamy, Corbis, Getty, Mary Evans, Look and Learn, Abi Baker The Art Agency, Ian Jackson, Peter Scott Adrian Mann, Thinkstock, Dreamstime, John Ndojelana, Megan Davis
All copyrights and trademarks are recognised and respected.

Advertising
Digital or printed media packs are available on request

Advertising Director Matthew Balch
☎ 01202 586437
matthew.balch@imagine-publishing.co.uk
Head of Sales Hang Deretz
☎ 01202 586442
hang.deretz@imagine-publishing.co.uk
Account Manager Liz Tucker
☎ 01202 586431
liz.tucker@imagine-publishing.co.uk
Advertising Sales Executive James McMorrow
☎ 01202 586436
james.mcmorrow@imagine-publishing.co.uk

International
All About History is available for licensing. Contact the International department to discuss partnership opportunities.

Head of International Licensing Cathy Blackman
☎ +44 (0) 1202 586401
licensing@imagine-publishing.co.uk

Subscriptions
Head of Subscriptions Gill Lambert
☎ 0844 848 8408
Overseas +44 (0)1795 592 867
Email: allaboutthistory@servicehelpline.co.uk
13 issue subscription (UK) – £41
13 issue subscription (Europe) – £50
13 issue subscription (USA) – £50
13 issue subscription (ROW) – £60

Circulation
Head of Circulation Darren Pearce
☎ 01202 586200

Production
Production Director Jane Hawkins
☎ 01202 586200

Founders
Group Managing Director Damian Butt
Group Finance and Commercial Director Steven Boyd
Group Creative Director Mark Kendrick

Printing & Distribution
Wyndeham Heron, The Bentall Complex, Colchester Road Heybridge, Maldon, Essex, CM9 4NW

Distributed in the UK & Eire by: Seymour Distribution, 2 East Poultry Avenue, London EC1A 9PT ☎ 0207 429 4000

Distributed in Australia by: Gordon & Gotch Corporate Centre, 26 Rodborough Road Frenchs Forest, NSW 2086
☎ + 61 2 9972 8800

Distributed in the Rest of the World by: Marketforce Blue Fin Building, 110 Southwark Street, London, SE1 0SU
☎ 0203 148 8105

The publisher cannot accept responsibility for any unsolicited material lost or damaged in the post. All text and layout is the copyright of Imagine Publishing Ltd. Nothing in this magazine may be reproduced in whole or part without the written permission of the publisher. All copyrights are recognised and used specifically for the purpose of criticism and review. Although the magazine has endeavoured to ensure all information is correct at time of print, prices and availability may change. This magazine is fully independent and not affiliated in any way with the companies mentioned herein.

If you submit material to Imagine Publishing via post, email, social network or any other means, you grant Imagine Publishing an irrevocable, perpetual, royalty-free licence to use the images across its entire portfolio, in print, online and digital, and to deliver the images to existing and future clients, including but not limited to, international licensees, for reproduction in international, licensed editions of Imagine products. Any material you submit is sent at your own risk and, although every care is taken, neither Imagine Publishing nor its employees, agents or subcontractors shall be liable for the loss or damage.

© Imagine Publishing Ltd 2014 ISSN 2050-0548z

Wrath of the Khans

The Mongols swept across Asia and Eastern Europe as relentless warriors, but Kublai Khan had bigger aspirations, building the greatest empire of the medieval world

Written by James Hoare

When Genghis Khan set out to rule the world in 1206, the world was but the sweeping plains and hills of the Mongolian steppe and its people were the nomadic and tribal Mongols. When the world expanded to include more plains and more tribal peoples – the Uyghurs, the Naiman and Tartars – they too were conquered and their warriors joined the Mongol horde. Like a snowball, the Mongol armies grew as they conquered and conquered as they grew. Eventually, though, their world became stranger and more complex. By 1220, the Mongols had charged across the River Kalka to battle the Kievan Rus in a land of Cyrillic script, feudal princedoms and the pungent incense of Eastern Orthodox Christianity. In the east, the Mongols had battled the mercenary armies of China's Western Xia and Jin Dynasty – a world of courtly intrigue, vast wealth and tightly bound Confucian social order. In the south they rode out across dusty deserts of the Caucasus to challenge Shah Ala ad-Din Muhammad, swords clashing beneath the elegant minarets of Islam. Genghis Khan was a reformer, but his empire was an empire of growth – if he could be dismissed as a barbarian by his enemies, he became very, very good at being a barbarian. He transformed Mongolia's tribal scrappers into a ruthless and co-ordinated horse army that could adapt and learn from every foe it toppled, taking up Islamic medicine, Chinese bows and European siege engines to grow stronger. Holding the reins of a vast multinational empire is very different from winning one.

Grandson of Genghis, Kublai Khan succeeded his older brother Mongke and knocked back the challenges of his young brother Ariqh Boke to take the office of Great Khan in 1260. Kublai inherited an empire with problems that couldn't all be solved by simply digging his spurs into the flanks of his wiry charger and lopping a few heads. Mongke Khan had died in China amid a sectarian set-to between fanatical Buddhists and Taoists that he had instructed Kublai to resolve, so this new Great Khan, perhaps more than any of his predecessors, understood just how fully the Mongol Empire's patchwork quilt of faiths, languages and ethnicities could pull it apart. He surrounded himself with advisers of different faiths and set about building trust between the people of his empire and their 'barbarian' overlord. Kublai Khan formalised the distribution of aid to sick, orphans and elderly scholars with dedicated officials and a yearly census would survey the harvest and assess the damage caused by war, famine and flood, allocating grain from special constructed granaries to relieve the burden. Religious freedom was increased and infrastructure was reformed. The Grand Canal was built, roads were improved, paper money was introduced and a new postal system was pioneered, with riders bolting between post stations and

KUBLAI KHAN

Mongolian, 1215-1294

Brief Bio

The fifth Great Khan of the Mongol Empire, Kublai reformed the entire state and became the first non-Chinese ruler to conqueror the entirety of China, establishing the ruling Yuan Dynasty that lasted until 1368. He is best remembered through the writings of Marco Polo and Samuel Taylor Coleridge's romantic poem Xanadu.

The emperor Kublai Khan ruled over a vast territory of land and received many visitors to his court

Mongol horsemen

The army created by Genghis Khan was almost exclusively made up of cavalrymen divided into heavy and light cavalry. Its power lay in its mobility, the effectiveness of its specifically created tactics and that it was a highly qualified army for the type of war it fought. The rulers following Genghis – including his grandson Kublai – did not significantly change the structure of the Mongolian horsemen. Although Kublai Khan was involved in fewer battles than his predecessors he did use the famous horsemen in his invasions of Japan, Burma and Vietnam.

BORN TO FIGHT

In Mongol society, all men between the ages of 16 and 60 who were physically fit to fight were warriors. Some 60% of the Mongol cavalry was light and 40% heavy, although they complemented each other tactically, combining the shock power of the latter with the rain of arrows of the former. The riders were so skilled with the bow and arrow that they could load and fire while at a gallop with almost infallible precision.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

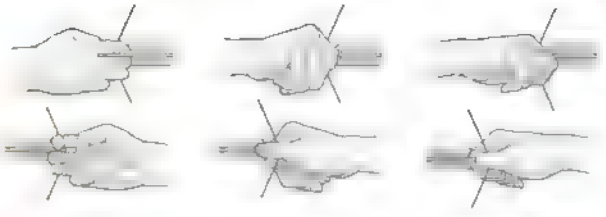
Each warrior was responsible for his own food and equipment and had at least three reserve horses. By constantly changing their mount, they travelled enormous distances in a very short time.

INSIGNIA

The Black Standard or Khar Sulde. Made from horsehair, it was only used for war

SHOOTING AN ARROW

Each bow, depending on its use and characteristics, has a distinct way of firing. The Mongols had their own technique for firing arrows.



Mediterranean
The arrow is held with the index finger, without using the fingertip. The cord is pulled using the middle and ring fingers.

The pinch
The end of the arrow is gripped with the index finger and thumb. The cord is pulled using the middle and ring fingers.

Mongol
The thumb, the strongest digit, pulls the cord. The index and ring fingers strengthen the grip around the back and the thumb.

Helmet
When in combat the traditional wool hat was replaced for a helmet of leather or iron.

Bow
The long bow carried by Mongolian troops could shoot more than 300 metres (980 feet)

Armour
Under leather armour was a thick silk shirt which helped to reduce the impact of an arrow.

Sabre
Instead of swords, sabres were carried which were curved, short and light: a deadly cavalry weapon.

Extra protection
Leather shoulder pads and wrist guards added an extra level of protection.

Horses
They usually belonged to the Przewalski's sub-group and were small, strong, fast and hardy

Quiver
Two quivers were carried which generally contained at least 60 arrows of varying types.

Stirrups
These were short, which enabled them to be more secure and so provide a better shot for the horseman.

Shield
Mongolian warriors often went without a shield and if they did carry one it was made of wicker and wrapped in leather.

changing horses at each one to keep each end of this vast realm in constant communication. His empire was administered by a multinational cast of functionaries, whose origins he had divided into four categories of trustworthiness: first, the Mongols; second, other Central Asian people; third, Manchurians and Koreans; and then last, the Chinese. Meanwhile, ambassadors and travellers from further afield were welcome with open arms for the knowledge and wealth they could bring - Christian missionaries even built churches.

While Genghis Khan's capital was Karakorum, deep in his Mongolian heartland, Kublai desired a capital worthy of an emperor in the domain where he had spent his youth. He installed his court in a newly built 'winter capital' - as traditionally nomadic people, the entire Mongol court would travel with the seasons, chasing the light to warmer climes - in what is now Beijing. Known as Dadu in Chinese (meaning 'grand capital'), in Mongolian it was called Khanbaliq - the City of the Khan, and its iconic Drum Tower still stands in the heart of modern China's bustling capital.

"The streets are so straight and wide that you can see right along them from end to end and from one gate to the other. And up and down the city there are beautiful places, and many great and fine hostelries, and fine houses in great numbers," wrote Kublai Khan's most famous foreign visitor, the Italian traveller and merchant Marco Polo.

At the centre of Khanbaliq was the Khan's palace painted red and white, where, under the watchful eye of a thousand guards, he kept his four wives in opulent luxury. In summer, the court would decamp and return to Mongolia to the walled tent city of Shangdu - known evocatively as Xanadu. Polo described two vast palaces, one made of marble and filled with "rooms of which are all gilt and painted with figures of men and beasts and birds, and with a variety of trees and flowers, all executed with such exquisite art that you regard them with delight and astonishment" and one of cane - better described as a 'pavilion' - which could be taken down and reassembled as befitting a nomad emperor.

If Shangdu was the embodiment of Kublai Khan's opulence - the Mongol equivalent of the mother of all static caravans - his court at Khanbaliq was the physical embodiment of his power, and of the resentment that began to gnaw away at that power like dry rot. The first non-Chinese emperor to rule all of China, Kublai Khan was the monarch of a nation who had believed themselves to be *the* penultimate civilisation, whose word for 'foreigner' shared the same characters as its words for 'beast'. Now they were ruled by a new power that represented everything barbarous and uncouth they believed foreigners to be, no matter that these foreigners had crushed the ruling Song Dynasty.

Kublai Khan strived to reinvent himself as a suitable ruler of China - he restored the elaborate Confucian rituals that had been a hallmark of the Song court, baffling his Mongol generals and advisers with the sudden enthusiasm for song and dance in the halls of government. He built temples to his father, Tolui, and his grandfather Genghis, rehabilitating these former invaders from the steppe into the Chinese tradition of ancestor worship, and gave his second son, Jin Chin, a Chinese education, along with an introduction to both Buddhism and Confucianism. The complex Song bureaucracy, the six ministries of central government, the ruling Secretariat council and the infuriatingly labyrinthine multi-tiered administration of the provinces, was retained. His bloodline was wallpapered into the mythology of China as the Yuan Dynasty, as divinely enshrined on the throne as the order it had replaced.

With one foot in the stirrups and another wrapped in the fine silks of Chinese courtly life Kublai Khan may have successfully reinvented himself as the latest facet of the Chinese imperial tradition, but his image as a merciless warlord was in doubt. In the eyes of his detractors, Kublai Khan had ceased to be the heir to Genghis, whose hoofbeats struck terror into the hearts of kings and emperors, and instead he had become a posturing dandy. In order to appease his traditional supporters, Kublai Khan ignored his Chinese advisers and launched disastrous invasion attempts on Japan in 1274 and 1281, and on Java in 1293. Poorly planned and poorly executed, even his successful conquests - Vietnam in 1284 and 1287, and Burma in 1277 and 1283 - struck the Mongol Empire a body blow in the wallet and his revolutionary paper money had to be replaced by an entirely new unit in an attempt to reign in the financial anarchy.

Marco Polo among the Mongols

Though Marco Polo was by no means the first European traveller to visit China or the court of Kublai Khan - and some modern historians dispute whether his adventures even took place and were instead cobbled together from the accounts of Arab and Persian traders on the Mongol Empire's south-western fringe - his account was the most well known and most widely read for centuries.

Setting off from the powerful Italian city state of Venice with his father and uncle in 1271, the Polo trio crossed the Black Sea and journeyed through Central Asia via the Silk Road with a Papal diplomatic mission for the court of Kubilai Khan.

Though it's the 17-year-old Marco who dominates the narrative and looms large in popular imagination, for father Niccolò and uncle Maffeo Polo this was in fact a return journey to the Emperor's court at Khanbaliq. Having first visited Kublai in 1260 and been gifted a golden tablet of free passage and a request to bring back 100 men to teach Christianity and European customs to the voracious early adaptors of his multinational court, they were the real pioneers and Marco Polo the wide-eyed passenger.

Nonetheless, the Great Khan seemed particularly taken with Marco - who even before the publication of his sensational proto-Lonely Planet guide in Old French, *Livres des merveilles du monde* ('Descriptions Of The World' in English), could tell a tale - and refused the Polo men permission to leave. Instead, Kublai Khan set them up as his roving emissaries, travelling the length and breadth of his domain and even further afield to Southern India as the Khan's ambassadors, and reporting back, making their incredible 24-year adventure around the Far East as much a silk-coated prison sentence as it was a working holiday. If it happened at all, that is...

Kublai Khan installed Marco Polo as one of his emissaries

"Kublai Khan set about building trust between the people of his empire and their 'barbarian' overlords"

The court's extravagance and decadence

"In Xanadu did Kublai Khan / A stately pleasure dome decree," wrote the great poet, critic and philosopher Samuel Taylor Coleridge from an opium-addled fug in 1797. Few lines have intoxicated so many quite so readily with their lyricism and yet meant so little to most who quote them. Surrounded by gardens and a lake where the Mongol emperor would hunt with his pet leopard, Kublai Khan's "pleasure dome" was indeed a thing of beauty and luxury. Although the poem represents the benign, ignorant Orientalism of European writers of the period, Coleridge's own excess – drugs, drink and women – has an echo in the overindulgence of the Great Khan. Marco Polo was dumbfounded to be invited to a New Year's feast that began with a parade of 10,000 white horses (the colour of good luck in Chinese folklore) and 5,000 elephants, each animal clad in silk stitched with gold. Behind the silk curtains, once the candles went out, Kublai Khan supplemented his four wives with a vast harem, even for the era and his position. He sent emissaries to the Tartars every two years to select between 400 and 500 new concubines who then rotated in and out of his bed-chambers six at a time in.

Following the death of his wife and unofficial adviser Chabi in 1281, Kublai Khan drank and feasted his grief away. He ate mainly meat – the traditional Mongol diet – boiled mutton, cooked lamb and vegetables wrapped in saffron. With it, he drank qige, fermented mare's milk – the Mongol tipple of choice – and kourniss, a beer made from millet. Alcoholism had been the sad fate of many of Kublai's predecessors, including his father, and he soon joined them, becoming obese and ill with gout, a medical condition caused by the build-up of crystals in the joints that causes crippling pain.

How Kublai restored the Silk Road

Once the vital trade artery, the Silk Road – a vast overland route which linked up merchants in the East and West – had fallen into disuse, plagued by corruption. Kublai Khan set about destroying toll gates that opened the Silk Road to traffic once more, and increased the number of relay stations for messengers – a system known as yam – where messengers could change horses and collect supplies as they barrelled from one end of the empire to the other. These yam stations were made available to associations of merchants, supported by low-interest loans from the state, who banded together into caravans to traverse the Silk Road, often commandeering Mongol warriors for protection. In China alone, by the end of Kublai Khan's reign there were 1,400 relay stations with around 50,000 horses and 4,000 carts.

Arguably one of history's earliest passports, Kublai Khan's mission to speed up trade and communication along the Silk Road led to the issue of metal tablets called paizi (meaning 'pass'), which would be worn on the traveller's clothing or hung around their neck so they were visible to customs officers. Available in iron, silver and gold with the bearer's name (meticulous records were kept with old ones cancelled on expiry), they entitled bearers to travel freely and requisition food, horses and guides wherever they needed, with a distinction made between officials on diplomatic business and important people – like Marco Polo, who was issued a gold one – on special errands from the Great Khan.

One surviving iron paizi, held at the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art is inscribed: "By the strength of Eternal Heaven, an edict of the Emperor, He who has no respect shall be guilty."

"His innovations in infrastructure and statecraft honoured the legacy of Genghis like no other Khan could"

While the Mongols within Kublai Khan's court had their bloodlust satiated in the jungles of Southeast Asia, reddening their blades and filling their pockets with enough loot to overlook their Khan's conversion to Buddhism, those back in Mongolia didn't feel so much the vanguard of a glorious global empire, but the subjects of a distant tyrant.

Much of Mongolia itself had become as fractious and lawless under Kublai as it was before the rise of Genghis and chafing under the increasing bureaucracy, Nayan, a descendant of Genghis Khan's half-brother Belgutei, allied with Kaidu, leader of a rival Mongolian Khanate which had backed Kublai's younger brother in the earlier civil war, and led a rebellion against Kublai.

Kublai, either believing the threat was so great that he had to personally respond or that as his identity as a Mongol was at stake, had to be seen to retaliate in the manner of his forefathers, personally lead an army to put down this revolt in 1287. Aged 72 and suffering with gout and rheumatism, Kublai could no longer ride and was carried on a palanquin on the backs of four elephants, but he insisted on taking to the field in his blue and gold armour. Taking the rebels by surprise, the battle lasted from mid-morning til mid-day and at its end Nayan was executed in the traditional manner of Mongol royalty: wrapped in carpet and dragged behind a horse until he died, so that "the blood of the lineage of the emperor" wasn't spilt on the ground.

For all his civility and his pretensions to imperial grandeur, when push came to shove, Kublai ruled as a Khan – with the steppe galloping past beneath him and his enemies falling like leaves. Though Kaidu continued to raid Yuan territory, his allies were brutally punished, their armies redistributed among the Khan's loyalists, and Kublai's own grandson was dispatched to bring this warlord to heel.

As much as he disgusted the traditionalists among his people, discarding their shamanistic faith for Buddhism and ruling from China, Kublai Khan expanded the Mongol Empire to its greatest height – covering 85.5 million square kilometres (33 million square miles) and over 100 million people from the fringes of Europe to the Far East. What's more, his innovations in infrastructure and statecraft, as much as his powerful fighting force, honoured the legacy of Genghis Khan like no other Khan could.

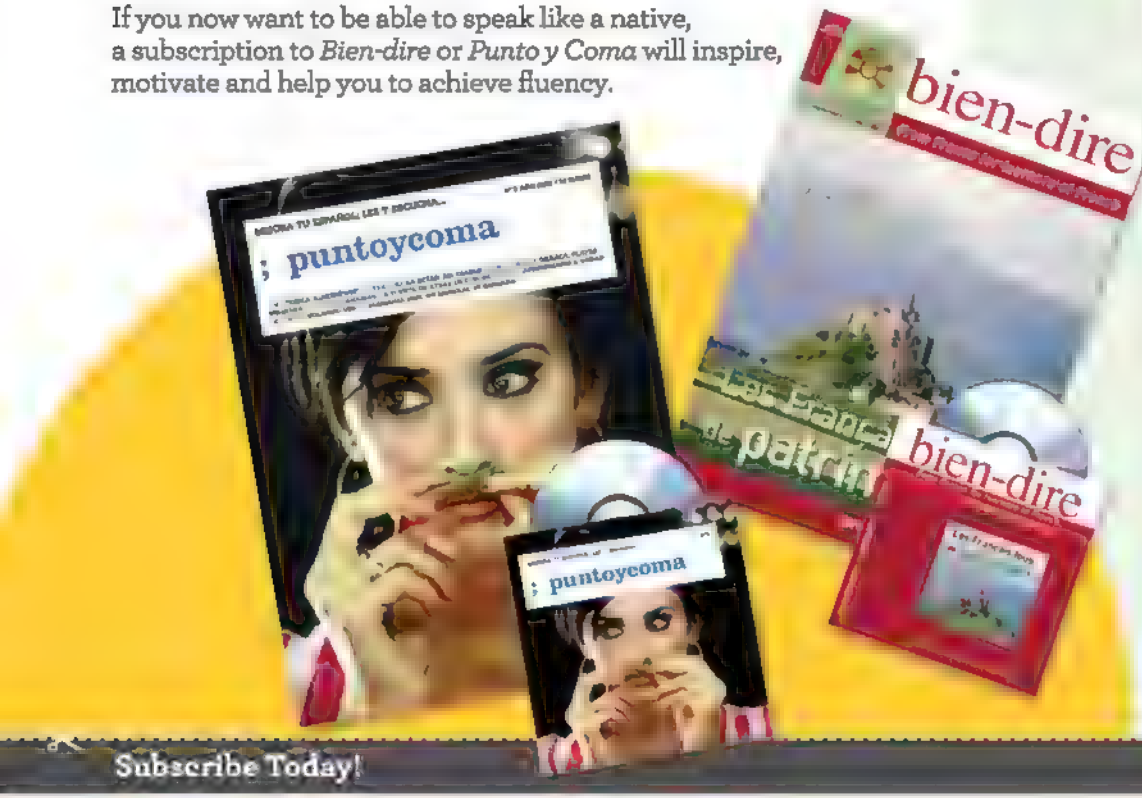
Genghis built an empire from the saddle, but Kublai built a civilisation from the court.

Speak French or Spanish as it's *really* spoken

Now you can improve or maintain your French or Spanish with the bi-monthly audio magazines, *Bien-dire* and *Punto y Coma*.

Bien-dire and *Punto y Coma* are both published six times a year from France and Spain and include a glossy magazine packed full of lively, topical and authentic articles and in-depth interviews in French or Spanish to give you the inside track on French or Hispanic culture. Key words and phrases are glossed into English on the facing page. The articles, in turn, are narrated on the accompanying 60-minute audio CD to enable you to improve your listening comprehension and understand French or Spanish as it's *really* spoken. In addition, every feature is graded for difficulty so that you can assess your progress with each issue.

If you now want to be able to speak like a native, a subscription to *Bien-dire* or *Punto y Coma* will inspire, motivate and help you to achieve fluency.



Key Benefits

- Speak French or Spanish with confidence by learning the language as it's *really* spoken
- Improve your vocabulary and listening comprehension
- Improve your knowledge of French or Hispanic culture
- Lively, relevant and up-to-date, authentic content
- Take advantage of on-going, portable and flexible learning

30 Day OFFER Save £16 TODAY!

Subscribe Today to either *Bien-dire* or *Punto y Coma* for a year for just £99 and you will receive an extra issue, worth over £16, for FREE - that's 7 issues for the price of 6!

Order TODAY by calling

0800 141 2210

Outside the UK call

+44 117 927 2236

or by visiting our website:

www.languages-direct.com/AAHnF
for *Bien-dire* and
www.languages-direct.com/AAHnS
for *Punto y Coma*

Subscribe Today!

01. Please send me half a year's subscription (6 bi-monthly magazines and 6 accompanying audio CDs for £99) to ***Bien-dire* Audio Magazine** + 1 extra FREE issue! ☐

02. Please send me half a year's subscription (6 bi-monthly magazines and 6 accompanying audio CDs for £99) to ***Punto y Coma* Audio Magazine** + 1 extra FREE issue! ☐

Cheque: cheque enclosed for £99 (payable to Languages Direct Ltd) ☐

or Card: Please charge my credit card for the sum of £99 only: Maestro ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ Amex ☐

Card number: _____

Expiry date: _____ Card CVV Code: _____

First name _____ Surname _____

Address: _____

_____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Please send your completed order form together with payment to:

Languages Direct Ltd, FREEPOST RSKB-KSKR-LYLU
Bristol BS1 6UX

Delivery: Your first issue should be with you within 10 days of receiving your order

60 day money-back guarantee

If for any reason *Bien-dire or or Punto y Coma* is not for you, just let us know within 60 days, and we'll refund your subscription in FULL, and you can keep your first issue. If at any time later you decide to cancel, we'll refund you the cost of any unmailed issues.

To see our full range of excellent language learning materials for other languages including German, Italian, Arabic and Chinese courses and more, visit www.languages-direct.com

Media Ref: AAH1

J. Edgar Hoover's relentless war on crime brought him up against gangsters, communists and even members of the US government

HOOVER'S WAR ON CRIME

Written by Chris Fenton

Bullets were chambered into revolvers, Tommy guns were primed and made ready. It was a sweaty spring day in 1936 New Orleans and John Edgar Hoover was preparing to make the biggest arrest of his career. The rest of the 'G-men' surrounding him were wearing their professional suits and hats, as director of the fledgling FBI Hoover had insisted his agents dress impeccably wherever they went.

He entered the street where the arrest would take place and waited with the rest of his agents around an alley. They had spotted their target; known gangster and miscreant Alvin 'creepy' Karpis looked smug and relaxed with his attractive red-haired girlfriend. Hoover was about to wipe the smile off his face. One of his agents gave the signal and in an instant 20 heavily armed government officials had surrounded them. Hoover held back behind the alley; it wasn't safe yet. Then one of his agents shouted the area had been secured and Hoover quickly ran into the action. They called on Karpis to surrender but Hoover forced the agents to hold back so he could make the arrest. When he asked for handcuffs none of his team had a pair, so one of them dutifully gave up his tie and allowed Hoover to take him in using that, making sure the press were watching and taking photographs so he

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER

American, 1895-1972

Brief Bio

Born on New Year's Day 1895 in Washington, DC, Hoover joined the Justice Department after graduating with a law degree from George Washington University. He became director of the Department of Investigation in 1924 and was instrumental in establishing the FBI in 1935. His career as director lasted until his death in 1972.

Director of the FBI John Edgar Hoover tests and aims a weapon

could claim the credit. It made front-page news in the newspapers and he smiled when he read America had found their new tough guy on crime.

The Karpis arrest was stage-managed by Hoover and his assistant director Clyde Tolson to answer criticism from a Senate committee. They were concerned by Hoover's demands for more powers for the FBI even though he had never served in the field or personally made an arrest. As with all criticism, Hoover took it personally - so personally he saw to it that he would be involved on the ground in the next big arrest. To do so he personally chartered a special flight down to New Orleans for him and 14 of his men on 24-hour notice, which in the Thirties was an astonishing feat and nearly impossible for most of the population.

Not two years before he had overseen the arrest of the man they said could never be caught; John Dillinger. The criminal was becoming a folk legend in the Midwest, targeting greedy banks, which were seen to be the cause of the great depression. As far as Hoover was concerned he was a common criminal, 'a beer-drinking plug-ugly' that needed to be arrested. The FBI track record on trying to catch Dillinger was less than impressive, though. A high-profile screw-up in April 1934, where agents allowed Dillinger to escape from a hotel they had apparently surrounded, caused no end of bad press for Hoover and the FBI. Like his battles with the Senate two years later it had also become personal. Dillinger was taunting Hoover with postcards saying he'd never catch him.

Then on 21 July 1934 one of his top agents received a tip-off regarding Dillinger's hiding place. At 10.30pm, FBI agents gathered outside the Biograph Theatre in Chicago and waited for Dillinger to emerge. When he did, they instantly opened fire, killing him in a hail of bullets. The official story was that Dillinger was going for his gun, although this has been disputed. It didn't matter, as far as Hoover was concerned. "The only good criminal was a dead criminal."

Alvin Karpis was 'Public Enemy No 1' one during the Thirties and was arrested in person by Hoover

"As far as Hoover was concerned: 'The only good criminal was a dead criminal'"

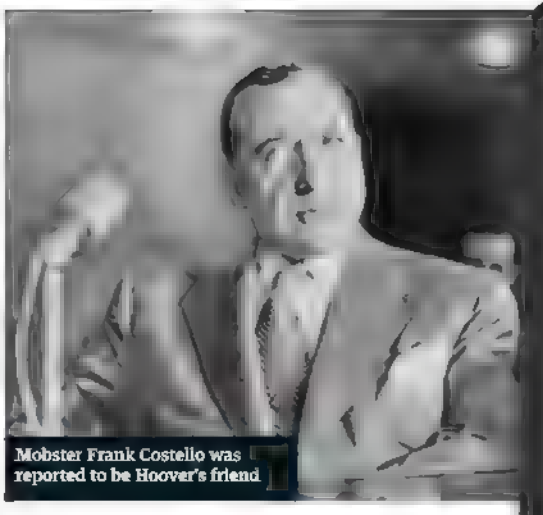
THE RED MENACE

Fear of the 'red menace', communist infiltration into American life, started in 1919 with Attorney General Mitchell Palmer heading up a new anarchist/communist task force at the Justice Department. Palmer began rooting out suspected communist sympathisers and whipping up anti-communist hysteria as Hoover, then a new employee, helped Palmer disrupt communist activity. He gathered evidence on 'revolutionary' and ultra-radical groups, which led to thousands of suspected communists being rounded up in brutal, heavy-handed raids that ultimately cost Palmer his career. The fear of communism did not disappear and in the Fifties Senator Joseph McCarthy used the red menace hysteria to smear political opponents through high-profile investigations. They were little more than show trials, though, and McCarthy quickly fell from favour because of the lack of solid evidence he presented.

By the end of the Fifties, Hoover was one of few men still in a position of real power who believed communism was a domestic threat. Martin Luther King was implicated as being a communist by Hoover, his civil-rights movement claimed to be a mere front for communist activities. All of these accusations were incorrect and served only to discredit a campaign that had condemned many thousands of innocent people to harassment by the federal government.

The agent in charge of the operation was Melvin Purvis, who up until that point was a close friend of Hoover's and thus one of a very select group within the ranks of the FBI. The press coverage he received for the Dillinger shoot-out was enormous but unfortunately for Purvis, Hoover didn't like to share the media spotlight. As a way to try regaining his popularity, Hoover contrived to get rid of him and on 10 July 1935 Purvis handed in his notice. Purvis' secretary later said. "Unless you continued to please the king, you didn't continue as a favourite for very long."

Back in Washington, questions also arose regarding Hoover's apparent relationship with known mobster boss Frank Costello. It was at best inappropriate for any kind of relationship to exist between an FBI agent and a known criminal. So what kind of message did it send to the US public if the head of the FBI was arresting gangsters one minute and consorting with them the next?



Mobster Frank Costello was reported to be Hoover's friend

ORGANISED CRIME

Organised crime had become endemic in the United States during the Twenties and Thirties because of the prohibition laws on alcohol that gave rise to criminal networks running speakeasies and racketeering throughout the country. The federal government could only offer limited support in helping local law enforcement because of the lack of national resources. Hoover changed this by lobbying for more funding into fighting federal crime through the FBI. He went after some of the most notorious criminal gangs in the country, in particular the Dillinger bank robbers of the Midwest. Despite the attention these arrests received, there were a number of high-profile screw-ups under Hoover's leadership. Dillinger was responsible for numerous escapes from jail at a time when the FBI was saying they were closing in on him. The 'shoot first and ask questions later' approach also landed the Bureau in hot water, with accusations that Hoover's agents were little more than trigger-happy government thugs.

After the end of World War II the bootlegger age faded and crime families like the Costellos and Carmines began to take over the gambling and racketeering rings of major US cities. Hoover and the FBI set about shutting them down through covert surveillance operations, infiltrating the crime networks and bringing them down from the inside.

The Costello story began in New York when he met Hoover during a shopping trip. They talked pleasantly and then met again at the Waldorf Hotel and drank together at the Stork Club. Sources in and out of the mafia claimed Costello would indulge Hoover's passion for gambling by giving him tips on horse races he had fixed. The relationship got so close that Costello once remarked to Hoover: "I've got to be careful about my associates, they'll accuse me of consorting with questionable characters."

Of course, people started talking about these associations but by the end of the Thirties Hoover had become almost untouchable through his power as director of the FBI. He had capitalised on his self-aggrandisement to turn a small department within a department into a crime-fighting juggernaut with far-reaching powers of investigation. New ways of detecting crime were pioneered by his FBI laboratory; he used up-to-date technology like phone tapping to probe into otherwise undetectable conversations and created huge files on investigation targets.

After the Lindbergh kidnapping, where a young boy was snatched from his bedroom in 1932, the arrest and conviction of prime suspect Bruno Richard Hauptmann was made through the use of marked bills and by the FBI identifying handwriting from ransom notes. Fingerprinting was also used and after the case was closed Hoover insisted all criminals arrested by the FBI should have their fingerprints placed on file so his agents could keep track of persistent offenders. These innovations elevated Hoover's political and media profile to such heights that he was soon considered untouchable by his political enemies.

The rise of the FBI's status worried many within the US establishment, including two consecutive presidents, Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman. Both were in office during Hoover's war on crime and both challenged his seemingly unquenchable thirst for more power over the lives of ordinary citizens. Phone tapping and covert surveillance was becoming an area of increasing concern, with a contemporary noting: "If there was a Mr Hoover in the first century CE can you imagine what he would have put into his files about a certain troublemaker from Nazareth?" Roosevelt was angered by Hoover probing into his wife's affairs and was anxious for the FBI to stop invading the privacy of US citizens. After one spectacular argument, Roosevelt told Hoover to get out of his White House and after that he would only speak to him on formal occasions when he had to.

After Roosevelt died and Harry Truman took over as president he wrote a memo: "We want no Gestapo or secret police. The FBI is trending in that direction ... this must stop." In response, Hoover set up a file on Truman but found precious little to feed it with. As such Hoover feared Truman above all other presidents who were in office during his time as FBI director. Truman had the power to clip his wings and Hoover had little mud to sling back at him. According to one contemporary working in the FBI at the time: "Hoover was frightened of his life with Truman – I know that personally."

"The rise of the FBI's status worried many within the US establishment"

US vice president John Nance Garner being fingerprinted by J Edgar Hoover in person

THE US ESTABLISHMENT

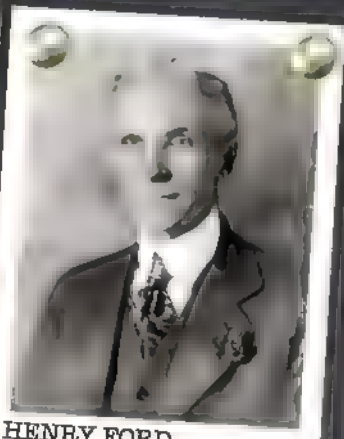
POLITICS

Adlai Stevenson was the Democratic rival to Republican Dwight Eisenhower in the 1952 presidential elections. Hoover saw him as a liberal reformer, a threat that had to be dealt with. Agents started investigating Stevenson and came back with claims of sexual misconduct with Bradley University president David Owen, also claiming they had found evidence of communist sympathies. When Stevenson announced his candidacy for president, a rumour was started by Hoover's suspected collaborators detailing all of this so-called 'evidence'. To Hoover's delight, Eisenhower won a landslide victory.

ADLAI STEVENSON
DOB: 1930
SUSPECTED CRIMES:
Sexual misconduct, communist and 'anti-American' leanings

BUSINESS

Hoover's had deeply rooted connections with business and he had a file on the entire Ford Motoring Company. It was widely known that Henry Ford opposed US involvement in World War II and Hoover suspected that one of Ford's employees, Fritz Julius Kuhn, was a Nazi and actively working to overthrow the government. As it transpired, Kuhn became the leader of the main Nazi political group in America, a group Hoover boasted he had fully infiltrated through paid informants. Hoover also used Ford's right-hand man, Harry Bennett, to look for communist activities in the disruption of labour. Bennett was in charge of destroying worker unions and breaking up strikes with force and so was perfect as far as Hoover was concerned to act as an extra pair of eyes within the US's car industry.



HENRY FORD
DOB: 1863
SUSPECTED CRIMES:
Opposing US involvement in WWII and employing Nazis

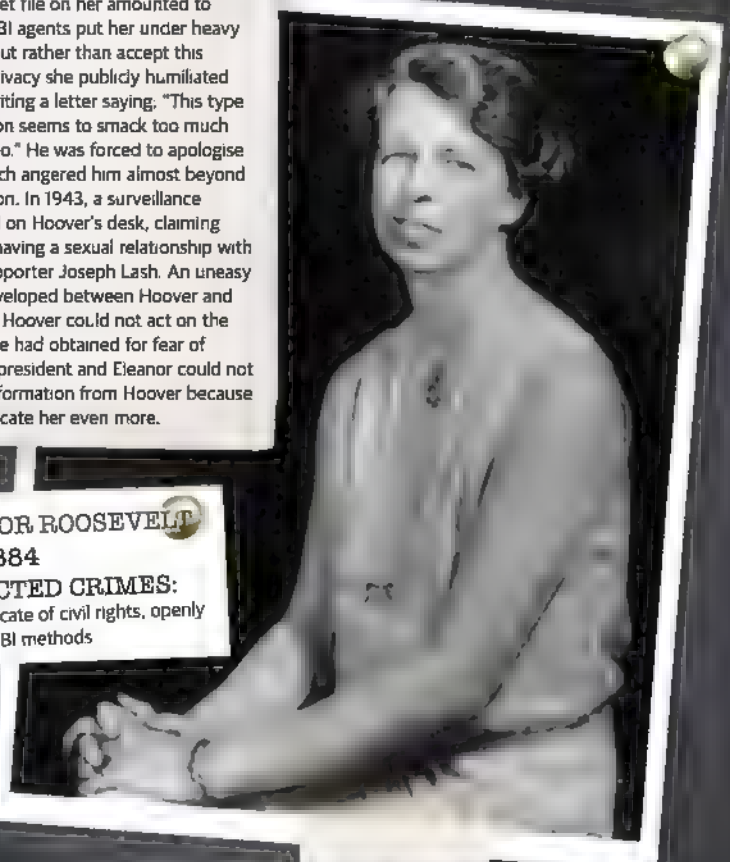
HOLLYWOOD

By the Forties, Charlie Chaplin was at the he ght of his acting career, his films and theatre shows were adored by everyone. Except Hoover. As far as he was concerned, Chaplin was poisoning America with his pro-communist movies and leftist political views and had to be stopped. He was also more popular than Hoover and had stolen his limelight as America's hero. FBI agents were dispatched to interrogate Chaplin's friends, colleagues and servants. As background check after background check turned up nothing incriminating, Hoover threw the entire weight of the FBI behind hounding out a man who, not long ago, had stumbled around a film set playing a penniless happy-go-lucky tramp. In 1952 Hoover finally succeeded in persuading the Attorney General that Chaplin should be deported back to England on the grounds that he was an 'unsavoury character.'

CHARLIE CHAPLIN
DOB: 1889
SUSPECTED CRIMES:
Advocating communist politics, 'unsavoury behaviour'

RIVALS

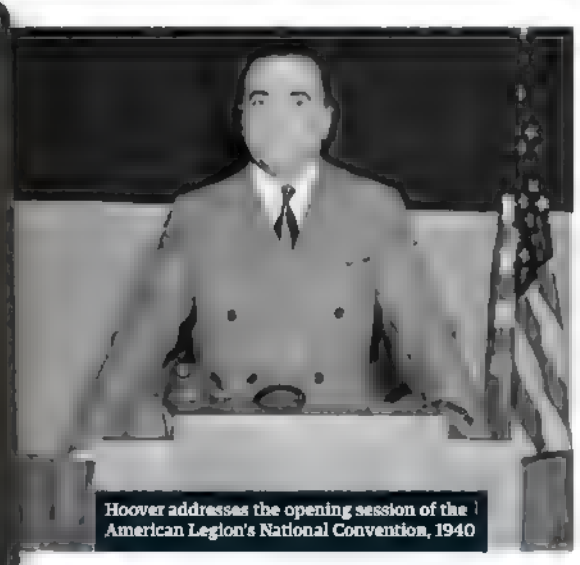
Hoover's distaste for president Roosevelt's wife Eleanor began when she started speaking openly about civil rights for African-Americans during her time as first lady. Hoover's secret file on her amounted to 449 pages, FBI agents put her under heavy surveillance but rather than accept this invasion of privacy she publicly humiliated Hoover by writing a letter saying, "This type of investigation seems to smack too much of the Gestapo." He was forced to apologise in public, which angered him almost beyond comprehension. In 1943, a surveillance report landed on Hoover's desk, claiming Eleanor was having a sexual relationship with Democrat supporter Joseph Lash. An uneasy stalemate developed between Hoover and the first lady; Hoover could not act on the information he had obtained for fear of angering the president and Eleanor could not ask for the information from Hoover because it would implicate her even more.



ELEANOR ROOSEVELT
DOB: 1884
SUSPECTED CRIMES:
Open advocate of civil rights, openly critical of FBI methods

HOOVER'S IDEOLOGY

Hoover believed in America and American conservatism as the first defence against organised crime and communism. Born in 1895, in many ways he was a product of his time and had traditional political beliefs. Beyond that, he believed in himself and his abilities as an effective lawman to combat threats to the US establishment. He had no time for gangsters and precious little for men and women who strived to reform the government with liberal ideas. Hoover saw communism as everything America stood against: "[it] threatened the happiness of the community, the safety of every individual ... they [communists] would destroy the peace of the country." He found the idea of equal rights for women and African-Americans equally as disruptive to America, he hated Eleanor Roosevelt for her outspoken remarks about feminism and found the civil rights movements of the Fifties a stone's throw away from an anarchist-inspired revolution. In the end, Hoover stood for the rich, established white middle class, which as far as he was concerned had created a perfect union set above any other government on Earth. The threat to this perfect union was reform, in the guises of communism, feminism and civil rights, which put together amounted to criminal activity. The only way to combat this was to use his agents to hound them out and expose them to the US public as threats.



Hoover addresses the opening session of the American Legion's National Convention, 1940

"Sources claimed Costello would indulge Hoover's passion for gambling by giving him tips on horse races he had fixed"

Hoover couldn't stand being on the outside of the political fence with nothing to get him back in. From the moment Truman took office in 1945 he began to get more and more paranoid over his job safety. He needed something that would secure his position in the upper echelons of power, it would no longer be enough for him to just continue to shake down gangsters – Karpis was the last of a dying breed of desperado bootleggers. The real menace was now seen to be communism, so Hoover made everyone know that he and only he could keep the United States safe from the red menace. He demonised the 'commies' as being political criminals, arguing they were responsible for terrorism and plotting to take over the US government through criminal activity.

Hoover was no stranger to this fight. He was involved in the Palmer raids in the Twenties, which involved the arrest and deportation of hundreds of suspected communist and anarchist sympathisers who had recently emigrated to the United States and moved on to investigating that known den of immoral activity: Hollywood. As far as he was concerned, Hollywood oozed 'the dank air of communism.' He saw to it the actors and actresses with known communist sympathies were exposed and punished. Some came forward willingly; Walt Disney told Hoover he was convinced members of his staff were making Mickey Mouse spout pro-communist slogans. His other targets ranged from A-list celebrities like Humphrey Bogart of *Casablanca* fame, to Hollywood rank-and-file actors, like future president Ronald Reagan, and the outright comical, like Charlie Chaplin, who ironically had just finished filming *The Great Dictator*. All were suspected of communist activity and all had confidential files in Hoover's office.

By the Fifties the red scare was at its zenith and Hoover, along with his ally and friend, Senator Joseph McCarthy, was leading the fight. McCarthy's targets included old personal enemies, political opponents and anyone he disliked. He asked Hoover for damning information and Hoover obliged, using the FBI's resources. Special inquisitions under the Un-American Activities Committee were set up, where McCarthy ranted and raved in front of his victims waving dossiers, supplied by Hoover, that detailed suspected communist activities. This was seen as justice for the crime of thinking communist thoughts and as Hoover commented to senior policemen during a conference: "It behoves us to be on guard for an enemy that brazenly and openly has advocated the corruption of America."

J Edgar Hoover at the White House with president John F Kennedy

In the end it was the US nation that got sick of government cronies trampling on the rights of innocent citizens. McCarthy fell out of favour and into a bottle and his behaviour became increasingly erratic. Hoover knew a lame horse when he saw one and quietly distanced himself from McCarthy. He would later claim he and McCarthy had never been close and had disagreed on fundamental issues. In truth, Hoover, like McCarthy, had seen communism as merely another manifestation of the criminal gangster, flouting the law and disturbing the peace. A few years after his retirement, a congressional committee ordered a check on the security files of the largest FBI offices in the country. They found there had been 19,700 investigations of 'subversives' or communists by the FBI under Hoover's directorship. Of them only four showed criminal activity, none of which involved anything that could bring down the government. Only in Hoover's mind did the communist and the criminal walk hand in hand.

As the Fifties drew to a close, the red scare was dying away like the gangster had in the Forties. Communism was now seen to be abroad in eastern Europe or Cuba, not in the American heartland. Thanks to the FBI's constant harrassment, membership of the American Communist Party, which had no proven affiliation with criminal activity, had dropped from 60,000 in 1919 to less than 5,000 in 1956. Hoover remained a dominant figure within the national consciousness and would do for the next decade. Ever mindful of his position, he continued to pursue discreet surveillance of the US establishment. His war on crime had taken him from the bawdy speakeasies of New Orleans and Chicago to the hallowed halls of power in Washington, DC, but after 1960 his fight would take a different direction. The lawman of the Thirties became a politician who fought, at times desperately, to keep himself in power as director of the FBI in the rapidly changing cultural and social environment of the United States.

© Getty Corbis Alamy

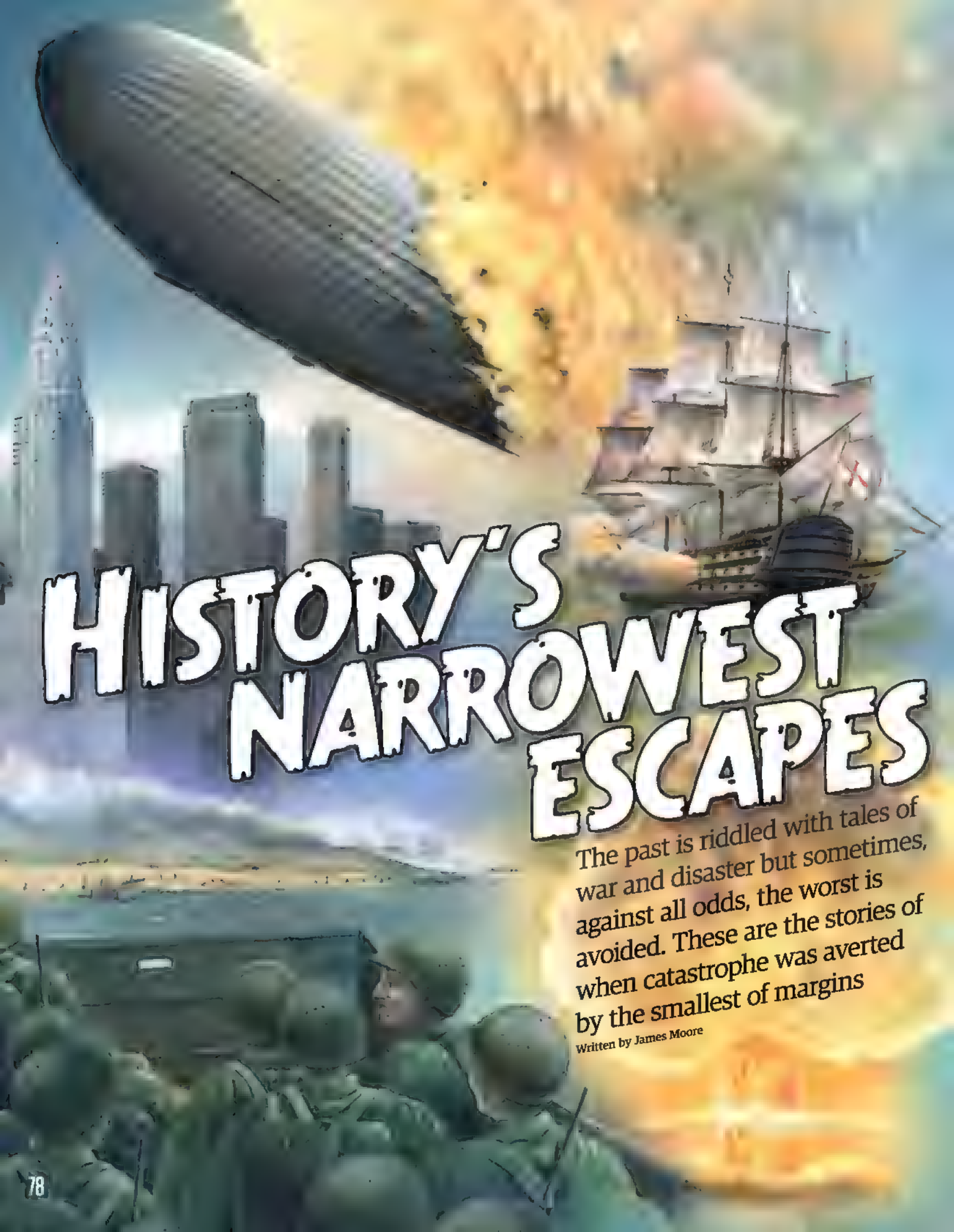
DISCOVER

Why subscribe?

- Pay only £2 per issue
- Risk-free purchase – money back on any unmailed issues
- Never miss an issue – receive each magazine before it goes on sale in the stores

*Terms & conditions: Pricing will revert to our standard offer of £17.95 every 6 issues on the third payment made. Subscribers can cancel this subscription at any time. New subscriptions will start from the next available issue. Offer code PAL1410 must be quoted to receive this special subscription price. Details of the direct debit guarantee are available on request. Offer expires 30 June 2014. Imagine Publishing reserves the right to limit this type of offer to one per household.

R HISTORY
SUBSCRIBE TODAY AND SAVE
50%*
EASY WAYS TO SUBSCRIBE
1. Online
Go to www.imaginesubs.co.uk/hist and enter code PAL141Q
2. Telephone
0844 848 8408
Overseas: +44 (0) 1795 592 867



History's Narrowest Escapes

The past is riddled with tales of war and disaster but sometimes, against all odds, the worst is avoided. These are the stories of when catastrophe was averted by the smallest of margins

Written by James Moore

THE SHIP THAT NEARLY DESTROYED NEW YORK

During WWII the citizens of the United States were spared the aerial onslaught suffered by European civilians but the city of New York only narrowly avoided devastation during the height of the conflict. This devastation wouldn't have occurred due to a scheme engineered by the Nazis or the Japanese, but would have been brought about by one of their own boats, the SS El Estero. Without the actions of a few brave souls, the ship's name would have gone down in infamy

The drama unfolded on 24 April 1943, as vessels bound for the European theatre were loaded with ordnance in Bayonne. They included the El Estero, an antiquated 99-metre (325-foot) Panamanian freighter, which was loading huge 1,800-kilogram (4,000-pund) blockbuster bombs at Craven Point pier. It was carrying 1,365 tons of deadly cargo.

It was the day before Easter Sunday and those loading the ship were no doubt looking forward to a well-earned rest when suddenly, at the nearby Coast Guard barracks a shout went up: "Ammo ship on fire!" A blaze had broken out on the El Estero after a boiler flashback had ignited oil floating on bilge water. The ship's engine room was quickly engulfed and the crew, armed only with hand-held fire extinguishers, were soon forced back by the searing heat. Within half an hour of the alarm, Jersey City Fire Department and sixty volunteers from the Coast Guard were battling the blaze along with two fireboats, pouring thousands of gallons of water onto the ship to try to snuff out the flames. Despite these efforts the fire was soon out of control.

In 1917, a French ammunition ship, the SS Mont Blanc, carrying 5,000 tons of TNT, exploded in Halifax, Canada, following a fire. The blast killed 1,600 people and destroyed 3,000 buildings. If the El Estero exploded that disaster would pale in comparison; there were other ships moored alongside it, carrying their own bombs, rail cars sitting on the dockside packed with more munitions, as well as two neighbouring fuel dumps. New York and its million inhabitants were in danger of going up in a ball of fire.

On land, the civilian authorities prepared for the worst. Hospitals and police precincts were warned that a massive explosion was imminent and industrial plants were closed. Back at the ship, retired fire chief Arthur Pfister managed to organise the removal of some of the red-hot ammunition boxes onto the pier via a greased plank, but the Coast Guard realised the only way to save the city would be to tow the ship to a safe distance and scuttle it. A site in Upper New York Bay was quickly identified and two tugboats tied to the craft, hauling the El Estero away from the dockside and the main shipping channel as fast as their creaking and straining engines would allow them to.

As the ship's seacocks were inaccessible, she would have to be sunk by pumping water into her cargo holds. Sailing alongside the vessel, the firefighting boats pumped thousands of gallons of water onto the ship in a desperate battle against the clock. Lieutenant Commander John Stanley was in charge of the operation and asked for twenty Coast Guard volunteers to remain aboard in an attempt to assuage the fires. Those who stayed knew their odds of survival weren't good.

Inside, the fire was still raging and the heat on deck was so intense it was singeing the shoes of those firefighters still aboard. However, the fireboats and the Coast Guard volunteers appeared to be doing enough to stop the bombs detonating. Eventually, the ship reached the target area near the Robbins Reef lighthouse. As water washed over the deck, the remaining hands were ordered off and at 9pm the El Estero slowly sank into the water, belching smoke, but not exploding, as the seawater poured in and cooled the ship down.

Disaster had been averted in the nick of time, and amazingly not a single life was lost. It was the biggest single threat New York faced during the whole of the war. Had the El Estero exploded it could have cost thousands of lives in the area and left much of Lower Manhattan, Brooklyn, Staten Island and the New Jersey ports of Jersey City and Bayonne in ruins. The destruction would also have severely dented the US war effort. The next day, New York mayor Fiorello la Guardia went on local radio saying: "We felt that at any minute we might be gone and thank God we got through it safely."

Times Square, New York, 1943

The last resting place of the SS El Estero, the ship that almost destroyed New York

HOW A RUSSIAN SOLDIER AVERTED WWIII

In a secret bunker near Moscow, duty commander Stanislav Petrov settled in for a night shift, hoping for an uneventful few hours in front of the banks of computers inside. It was 25 September 1983, and the Cold War was approaching its zenith. Earlier that year, US president Ronald Reagan had branded the Soviet Union an 'evil empire' and on 1 September the USSR had shot down a civilian South Korean airliner, claiming it had been on a spy mission, causing the loss of 269 lives.

Petrov's job was to monitor the early-warning systems that would alert him if a nuclear attack from the West had been launched on his country. Just past midnight, an ear-piercing alarm shattered the quiet murmur of the room. According to the information on Petrov's screen, a Minuteman nuclear missile was inbound to Soviet territory, having been launched from Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana. Five minutes later the system reported the launch of another missile, then another. In total, five intercontinental ballistic missiles, each 100 times more powerful than the Hiroshima bomb, appeared to be hurtling towards Soviet territory. It looked like WWIII and the devastation of the planet was taking place before his eyes.

The duty commander knew he had to act quickly; there were only twelve minutes before the missiles hit their targets. Protocol decreed that it was his duty to report up the chain of command to the general staff, who would pass the information of the attack to the hard-line Soviet leader, Yuri Andropov. Andropov would have only minutes to decide what to do and would almost certainly order a full-scale retaliation, launching the USSR's missiles against the USA before they were destroyed.

As Petrov held an intercom in one hand and a phone in the other he hesitated. He knew the fate of not only his own country, but the world, was in his hands. The system giving him the information used satellites to monitor ballistic missile launches. It was relatively new; it had only been launched the year before. Petrov knew this. He also knew that the system had generated false alarms of lone missiles being launched. Yet this was different, as there seemed to be multiple weapons on their way.

As precious minutes ticked by, ground radar stations reported nothing untoward, but they couldn't see what was going on beyond the horizon. An attack could still be on. Still, Petrov called the Kremlin and reported that the attack was a false alarm. It was a big call. If he was wrong he would be responsible for the destruction of his homeland. More vital time ticked by and no missiles had arrived.

It was concluded that the Sun's rays reflecting off a high altitude cloud had caused the confusion. If it hadn't been for Petrov's presence of mind Armageddon could have followed. What's even scarier is that he was only on duty because someone had called in sick – it could have been someone less willing to question the information in front of them at the controls.

> "As Petrov held an intercom in one hand a phone in the other he hesitated. He knew the fate of the world was in his hands"

During the Cold War both USA and the USSR had strategic air command personnel to help protect their countries

HOW PRINCE ALBERT STOPPED A WAR

1812
War breaks out between Britain and the United States. By the time it ends in 1815, the White House has been burnt down. An uneasy relationship between the two nations remains for decades.

1840
Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha marries Queen Victoria three years after her succession to the throne. He gradually becomes more involved in helping her with matters of state.

1859
Tensions between Britain and the United States are raised after the simple shooting of a pig leads to a confrontation over the boundary between the US and British North America, now Canada.

April 1861
The American Civil War breaks out between the Confederate States in the south and the Union in the north. By 1865, the war will have claimed around 600,000 lives. Britain remains neutral.

ESCAPE FROM THE HINDENBURG

Horrified radio broadcaster Herbert Morrison was moved to exclaim, "Oh, the humanity!" as he watched the German airship Hindenburg crash to earth on 6 May 1937 at the Lakehurst Naval Air Station in the United States. The huge Zeppelin had been ferrying passengers in style across the Atlantic when it was suddenly engulfed in flames moments before it was due to land and came crashing down to the ground.

At 245 metres (804 feet) long and 40 metres (135 feet) wide, the LZ 129 Hindenburg was the largest man-made object that had ever flown. Yet it was reduced to cinders in just 37 seconds. At the time, the hydrogen gas-filled craft represented the height of glamour but its sudden demise caused the deaths of 36 people and effectively ended the airship era, though the exact reasons for the crash are still not known today.

Despite the tragic loss of life, there were amazing stories of survival, including that of Werner Franz, a 14-year-old cabin boy. Back in 1936 Franz, living in Nazi Germany, landed his dream job aboard the Hindenburg. His role saw him working in the crew mess, washing dishes, setting tables, making the beds in the cabins and carrying out other sundry tasks such as traversing the precarious catwalks criss-crossing the hull.

On the afternoon of 6 May, Franz was working in the officers' mess when he saw the distinctive skyscrapers of New York pass underneath them. After waiting for bad weather to clear at Lakehurst, the airship's destination in New Jersey, Captain Max Pruss ordered the craft to start its landing procedure. Franz continued with his duties in the galley, putting washed china away in a cupboard. In the past he'd joined crew members who were required to move to the bow of the airship to act as ballast during the landing process, but on this occasion Franz was too busy with his mess tasks. His industriousness saved his life.

As the Hindenburg's engines were reversed, bringing it to a stop, lines were dropped from the airship to the ground crew so that they could tether the dirigible to a mooring mast. However, with the Hindenburg still 60 metres (200 feet) from the ground, flames were spotted at the stern of the airship, near its fins. As highly flammable hydrogen rushed out, the tail of the airship dropped to the ground and the craft was quickly consumed by the growing inferno.

The Hindenburg disaster brought the era of airships to a fiery end

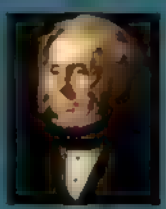
Franz felt the airship shudder. Then, as the Hindenburg lurched violently, all the china Franz had put away flew out of the cupboard, crashing to the floor. He ran to the passageway as the ship began to lurch alarmingly upwards. Flames leapt dangerously towards him so he edged backwards along the walkway, holding carefully onto its handrails. As the flames threatened to engulf him he enjoyed a tremendous stroke of luck; a water ballast tank burst somewhere above his head, drenching him and putting out some of the fire. Franz realised that near him was a cloth-covered hatch in the starboard side of the airship through which provisions were loaded.

As the fire overwhelmed the ship, its nose now fell towards the ground, giving Franz his chance. Diving for the hatch he punched his way through and jumped. Fortunately, he timed his leap to perfection, with the airship now less than six metres (20 feet) from the ground. Once on the airfield, Franz got up and ran as the airship's ghostly frame, consumed with fire, plunged down behind him. Incredibly, Franz made it out, his soaking clothes protecting him from the burns suffered by many others. The day after the disaster he got permission to go back to the smouldering crash site to look for his grandfather's pocket watch, which had been in his bunk aboard the airship. Amazingly, he found it – still ticking amid the wreckage – and considered how close he had come to his time on Earth being over.

"Franz got up and ran as the airship's ghostly frame plunged down behind him"

8 November 1861
Union ship USS San Jacinto stops the British RMS Trent in the Atlantic and apprehends two Confederate diplomats aboard. Britain's neutrality is called into question by the action.

30 November 1861
Outraged at a violation of neutrality, Lord Palmerston's government drafts an ultimatum to the United States, effectively threatening war if the diplomats are not released.



1 December 1861
Ill with typhoid, Prince Albert reads through the letter, striking out inflammatory passages, toning down the language and giving the Union a way out of this situation if they make some form of an apology. The cabinet accepts Prince Albert's comments and the letter is sent, giving Abraham Lincoln's government a way out of the situation. Albert passes away, aged 42, on 14 December.

January 1862
The Union releases the two Confederate diplomats it had been holding and British troops marching on the Canadian border are stood down.

PLOT TO KILL CHURCHILL

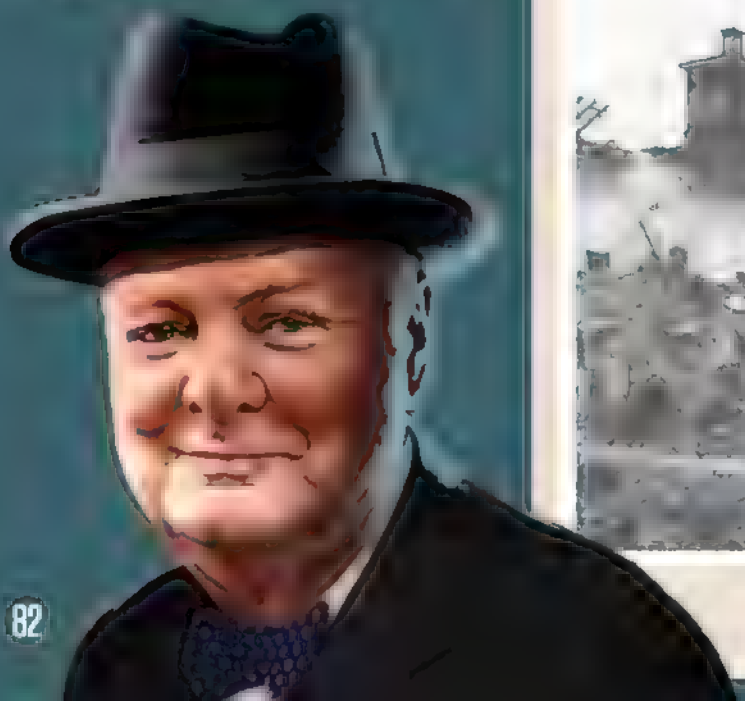
On 4 February 1943 prime minister Winston Churchill was sent an urgent telegram by his deputy Clement Attlee. It read: "Attempts are going to be made to bump you off."

Churchill was travelling secretly in North Africa but British codebreakers discovered the Nazis knew his movements and were plotting to kill him. The messages showed that assassins were primed to kill Churchill when he arrived in Algeria.

Churchill had already dodged several assassination attempts during his lifetime, but this time the killers were planning to exploit his famous love of alcohol. A German agent called Hans-Peter Schulze knew the route Churchill was taking, and now four assassins were on their way to Algeria with orders to end his life.

One of the messages to Berlin read: "Dispatch urgently 20-50 machine pistols with ammunition, magnetic and adhesive mines. Also poisons for drinks..." Another message showed the killers had crossed the frontier and were on their way to complete their mission and so Attlee sent his hurried message marked to warn Churchill. It continued: "We have studied possibilities very carefully and I and my colleagues, supported by the Chiefs of Staff, consider that it would be unwise for you to adhere to your present programme. We regard it as essential... you proceed to England."

However, Churchill was already on his way to Algiers. Once there, the prime minister was rushed out of the country via an altered route and arrived home, safe to continue plotting the Allies' success.



THE LAST SUPPER'S SURVIVAL

Unusually for a piece of art, Leonardo da Vinci's *Last Supper* was thought of as a masterpiece in the artist's own lifetime. It was painted on the northern wall of the refectory at the Santa Maria delle Grazie convent in Milan, Italy, and has captivated millions of visitors for more than 500 years since its completion in 1498. The fact that people in 2014 can still marvel at its genius is something of miracle in itself.

Within a few years after it was finished it was already flaking away. By 1556, when Giorgio Vasari visited, he claimed there was not much more to see than "a muddle of blots." Part of the reason for this was the way da Vinci had created it. To form a traditional fresca he would have had to paint quickly on damp plaster, but he didn't like to rush and so used a slower method oil and tempura over dry plaster.

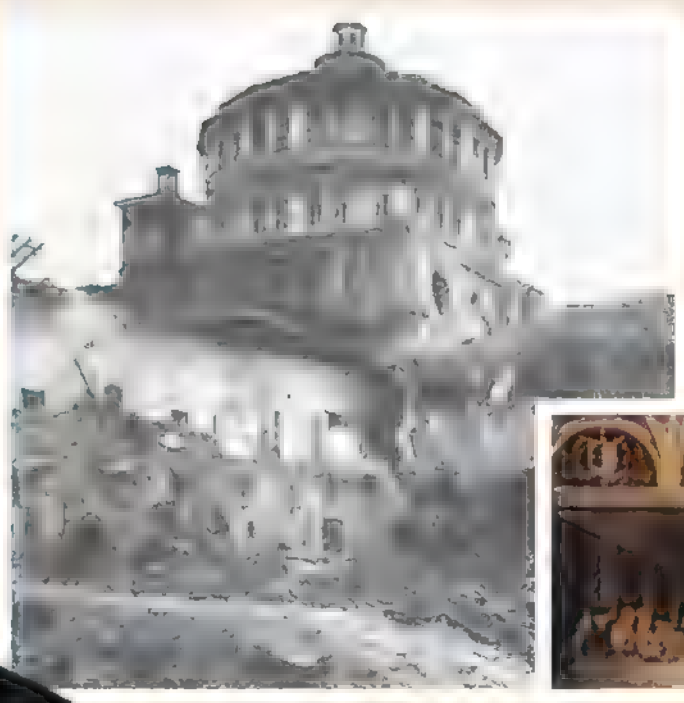
This allowed da Vinci to make changes as he went along, but also meant the painting was never properly fixed to the surface, leaving a time bomb for those who, in the following centuries, attempted to preserve one of the world's cultural wonders. In 1652, it suffered a different sort of calamity when a group of friars decided to have a door put through the middle of the wall supporting the painting, entirely obliterating Christ's legs for good.

Early attempts to save the picture involved using everything from alcohol to caustic soda and were horribly botched. In 1821, an artist called Stefano Barezzi had the idea of taking all the paint off and mounting the whole thing on canvas instead. When he realised that he was destroying the *Last Supper*, Barezzi gave up and haplessly tried to glue the pieces back on.

In 1796, Napoleon marched triumphantly into Milan and French troops were billeted at the convent. The room housing the *Last Supper* was soon in use as a stable, with soldiers using the painting for target practice, amusing themselves by lobbing bricks at the heads of the apostles. However, the *Last Supper's* biggest threat occurred when Mussolini's Italy entered WWII. An important industrial centre, Milan was targeted by Allied bombers on around 50 occasions. On the night of 16 August 1943, the inevitable happened and a ten-ton bomb landed on the convent.

Amazingly, the painting emerged from the rubble intact. It had been sandbagged, which protected it from shrapnel. After that it was only covered with a tarpaulin though, leaving it dangerously exposed but the refectory was not hit again and some 30 years after the end of the war a new restoration effort was started. In 1999 the restored painting was put back on view to the public, its future finally secure.

"The room housing the *Last Supper* was soon in use as a stable, with soldiers using the picture as target practice"



Damage at Santa Maria delle Grazie in Milan, where the *Last Supper* was housed, after an Allied air raid

Da Vinci's *Last Supper* is one of the world's most precious paintings

LORD NELSON'S CLOSE SHAVE

At the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805, Admiral Lord Nelson's fleet defeated the French and Spanish navy. It was a stunning victory in which the British didn't lose a single ship. Although Nelson himself was killed during the action, the battle cemented his legend.

Yet Nelson wouldn't have been there but for the bravery of a humble sailor several years earlier. By 1797, Nelson was a battle-hardened officer who had lost the sight in his right eye. Britain had been at war with France since 1793 and Rear Admiral Nelson tasked with blockading the Spanish fleet at Cadiz. On 3 July 1797, he led a group of British boats in a night raid. Nelson's barge was involved in hand-to-hand combat with the crew of a Spanish boat and Nelson led from the front. Seeing his superior in danger, Nelson's coxswain, John Sykes, put himself in the way of potentially fatal blows. Nelson later recalled: "This was a service hand-to-hand with swords, in which my coxswain John Sykes twice saved my life."

Sykes's heroics did not go unnoticed, with Nelson touting him for promotion but he was killed in action a year later. Nelson made his mark on history but Britain came perilously close to their hero not even being there.

"Napoleon knew he would need command of the English Channel"

The Battle of Trafalgar was Lord Nelson's finest victory

NAPOLEON'S INVASION OF BRITAIN

Napoleon Bonaparte never did hide his ambition to conquer Britain. In 1797, he said the French, "Must destroy the English monarchy, or expect itself to be destroyed by these intriguing and enterprising islanders... let us concentrate all our efforts on the navy and annihilate England. That done, Europe is at our feet."

The same year the French had attempted to land an invading army in Wales but it had been foiled, partly thanks to bad weather. But Napoleon, who seized power in France in 1799, showed no signs of giving up and in 1803, created an invasion army. It consisted of a hundred and fifty thousand men assembled at camps in northern France and a flotilla of 2,000 barges to transport them across the Channel. The British government took this threat seriously and commissioned a string of fortifications along the South Coast.

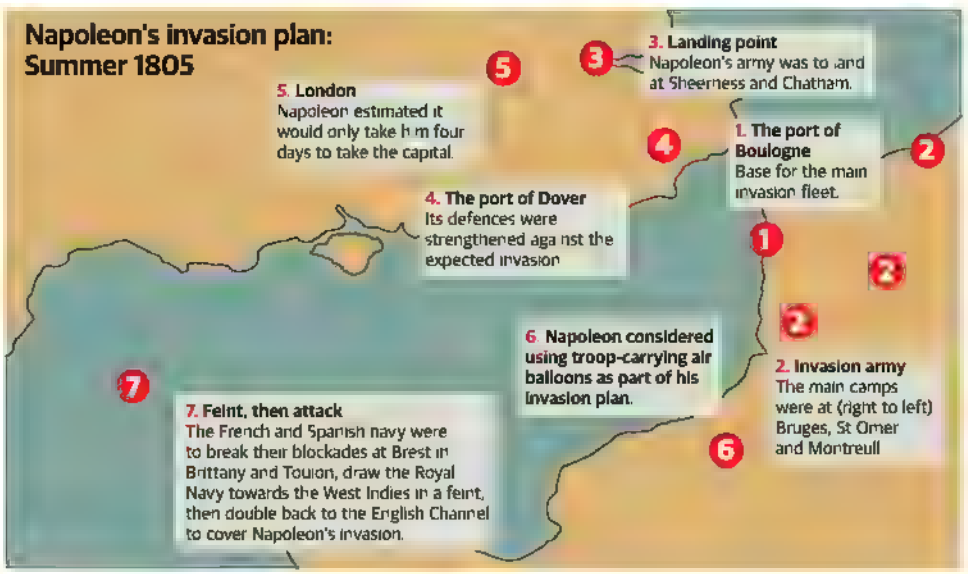
Napoleon knew he would need command of the English Channel if his plan was to succeed. He therefore devised a plan to trick the British navy into leaving the English Channel unprotected. As most of his own navy and that of the Spanish, his ally, were blockaded in their home ports by British ships, his idea was for two squadrons of ships to break out and make for the West Indies. The ships were to shake off the British and double back to provide cover for the invasion.

In the spring of 1805, the French fleet at Toulon, led by Vice Admiral Pierre Villeneuve, did indeed break out of the Mediterranean with 11 ships of the line and linked up with a group of Spanish ships with Vice Admiral Horatio Nelson and his fleet in hot pursuit. Although failing to link up with the still-trapped fleet from Brest as planned, Villeneuve captured some British ships and was soon heading back towards the English Channel.

By 22 July, Villeneuve's force was off Cape Finisterre, on the northwestern tip of Spain, when they ran into a British force. There was an indecisive clash in the fog and Villeneuve was able to retire to the nearby port of Ferrol. There was still time for Villeneuve, now with a fleet of 29 ships, to break through the British force blockading Brest in Brittany, link up with the French ships trapped inside the port and bear down on the Channel and rendezvous with Napoleon's invasion force.

Napoleon wrote to Villeneuve urging, "Get to sea, lose no time... England is ours!" But Villeneuve ignored him took his fleet to Cadiz. Hearing the news, Napoleon declared: "What a navy... what an admiral. What sacrifices for nothing!"

Once he arrived in Cadiz, Villeneuve was again blockaded and Napoleon's chance to deceive the British navy had passed. The two powers clashed in a battle called Trafalgar in which the Franco-Spanish fleet lost twenty-two ships and the British none. Nelson was mortally wounded, Villeneuve captured and a nation had been narrowly saved.


Napoleon's invasion plan: Summer 1805
3. Landing point
Napoleon's army was to land at Sheerness and Chatham.
5. London
Napoleon estimated it would only take him four days to take the capital.
1. The port of Boulogne
Base for the main invasion fleet.
4. The port of Dover
Its defences were strengthened against the expected invasion
6. Napoleon considered using troop-carrying air balloons as part of his invasion plan.
2. Invasion army
The main camps were at (right to left) Bruges, St Omer and Montreuil
7. Feint, then attack
The French and Spanish navy were to break their blockades at Brest in Brittany and Toulon, draw the Royal Navy towards the West Indies in a feint, then double back to the English Channel to cover Napoleon's invasion.

THE MAN WHO SURVIVED TWO NUCLEAR BOMBS

On a clear, sunny morning on 6 August 1945, Tsutomu Yamaguchi was making his way along a track through some potato fields when he heard the faint noise of an aircraft in the sky above. A naval draftsman, he had just got off a tram and was walking towards his workplace, a shipyard in the Japanese city of Hiroshima, where he had been working as part of a three-month posting. The job was finally coming to an end and Yamaguchi was looking forward to getting back to his wife and baby son waiting at their home, which was some 420 kilometres (260 miles) away.

At the sound of the plane, the 29-year-old looked up and saw a tiny object fall out. The plane was a US B-29 bomber called Enola Gay. Its crew was tasked with dropping the first atomic weapon ever to be used in war and the object Yamaguchi had seen was a 13-kiloton uranium bomb. 43 seconds later, at just under 600 metres (2,000feet) above the city, it detonated.

Down below, Yamaguchi was suddenly blinded by what he later described as a 'great white flash in the sky' accompanied by a deafening roar. Trying to dive down, as he had been trained to do, he was instead sucked up into the air, then violently flung down to the ground. A few moments later he came to, lying in the mud. At first, as he opened his eyes, he could see little. Slowly, as the dust began to clear, he could make out the singed leaves of the potato plants. Then he saw a huge mushroom cloud rising into the now dark and menacing sky.

Then the pain hit him, a searing heat on the left side of his face and down his arms. Yamaguchi made his way to an air-raid shelter 180 metres (600 feet) away. There he was told he had been badly burned. His left eardrum had also been ruptured and his hair completely burned off.

Two hours later, he decided there was no point in lingering and stepped outside once more, making for the shipyard. Then, with two colleagues, he attempted to return to his lodgings in the city and get his possessions. In the centre of Hiroshima, the trio encountered a scene of total devastation. Those who weren't dead were limping or walking in a state of utter bewilderment, many stripped of their clothes, others with skin hanging off them. That night the three co-workers huddled together in an air-raid shelter, listening to the moaning of the dying all around them. At dawn they made their way to the train station where, incredibly, the railway was still operating and boarded the first train headed west.

Yamaguchi had been 3.2 kilometres (two miles) from the epicentre of the Hiroshima blast. Those nearer were not as fortunate. Some 78,000 had been killed by the immediate effects of the explosion. The death toll would soon hit 140,000, thanks to the effects of radiation, and 69 per cent of the city's buildings were flattened. Yet Japan did not surrender. For the young engineer it might have been the end of the story – except that his home city was called Nagasaki. After being treated at a hospital there, Yamaguchi reported to his head office for work on 9 August.

At work he was telling his boss what had happened in Hiroshima when there was another blinding flash. A second atomic weapon, this time a 25-kiloton plutonium bomb dubbed 'Fat Man', had been dropped. The resulting blast shattered Yamaguchi's office, hurling him to the ground.

Again he was only about three kilometres (two miles) from the epicentre and although his bandages were torn off, he was otherwise unhurt, thanks partly to the protection of a nearby steel stairwell. Yamaguchi got out through a window and made his way through the ruined streets to his home. It had been destroyed but his family were safe. Around 70,000 other people weren't so lucky and died in the attack and just a few days later Japan surrendered. Tsutomu Yamaguchi lived to be 93.

"Yamaguchi was suddenly blinded by what he later described as a 'great white flash in the sky' accompanied by a deafening roar"

The nuclear bombs dropped on Japan ended WWII but caused great loss of life and led to questions of morality

HOW A MOULDY MELON SAVED MILLIONS

As the troops landed on the shores of Normandy on 6 June 1944, the medics who accompanied them carried a new weapon. It was not one that could be used against the enemy, but it was the ultimate defence for soldiers who had been wounded.

During the first 24 hours of the Normandy landings, there were around 12,000 Allied casualties. Yet some 3,000 lives were saved during Operation Overlord, thanks to the new wonder drug, which was able to fight infections. This new wonder drug was called penicillin and was first discovered in 1928.

While studying influenza, British scientist Alexander Fleming went on holiday and upon returning noticed some blue-green mould growing in one of the petri dishes he had been using. The fungus had a bacteria-free area around it and Fleming realised that something in the mould must be killing the bacteria and found that the mould was penicillum notatum.

Fleming may have discovered the new drug but it wasn't until years afterwards that it would be developed into a workable antibiotic agent. In 1939, with war clouds gathering over Europe, Howard Florey, an Australian scientist took another look at Fleming's work with the help of two other scientists, Ernst Chain and Norman Heatley. They ultimately developed a way to purify small amounts of penicillin. Then, in 1940, they injected it into four of eight mice that had been infected with fatal doses of bacteria; the ones that had not been injected died while the others survived.

It was clear that antibiotics could make a big difference in the war, curing soldiers and civilians of deadly infections. In early 1941, the team came across Albert Alexander, who was dying of infection. They treated him with penicillin and his condition improved, but they couldn't make enough of the stuff to and he died weeks later.

Penicillin's pioneers had proved that it could be used to cure infection but producing it in bulk was now their biggest headache and so they travelled to the United States. When the US entered the war, the race to produce penicillin on a massive scale heated up and in 1943 came a major breakthrough in the manufacturing process. Mary Hunt, an enthusiastic worker in one of the US labs brought in a rotting cantaloupe melon from a local market. The type of mould on it, identified as penicillin chrysogenum, produced 3,000 times the amount of penicillin originally created by Fleming. It became the strain from which most of the world's penicillin would be made and mass production could now begin.

US troops wading through water and Nazi gunfire trying to storm Omaha beach

"It was clear antibiotics could make a difference in the war"

By 1944, total US production was up to 130 billion units a month, with British factories chipping in too. By the launch of D-day, there were 2.3 million doses – 180 tonnes – available to the soldiers poised to pour across the English Channel. The development of penicillin in time for D-day was one of the factors that gave the Allies the upper hand as they drove on into Germany. If it wasn't for a mouldy melon, WWII could have turned out very differently.

History's Narrowest Escapes by James Moore and Paul Nero, priced £9.99, is out now **www.thehistorypress.co.uk**

PENICILLIN THROUGH TIME

- **1928** Alexander Fleming discovers penicillin to be an anti-bacterial agent while working at St Mary's Hospital Medical School in London.
- **1940** Dr Howard Florey, Ernst Chain and colleagues at Oxford University isolate the active ingredient of penicillin. Experiments on mice show its potential as a medicine for humans
- **1941** Albert Alexander is the first patient to be treated with penicillin but the new drug is difficult to extract in bulk and supply runs out before his life can be saved
- **1943** The US lead the way in production of penicillin after the best strain for its bulk manufacture is found in a mouldy cantaloupe melon.
- **1944** Troops taking part in the D-day landings in Normandy are equipped with penicillin, which saves thousands of Allied lives.
- **1945** Fleming, Florey and Chain are jointly awarded the Nobel Prize for their work on penicillin and the lives it has saved.

© Alamy, US Coast Guard, Church of Santa Maria della Grazie Milan, US Navy, Peter Smith/Art Agency, Joe Cummings

Witch-hunting

The witch-hunters of early modern Europe and America saw thousands tortured and sentenced to death, but what was a witch-hunt and why did this notorious practice happen?

Written by Ben Biggs

Imagine for a few minutes you're a peasant in 17th-century Europe: a widow who lives in the small abode your husband left in his will. You tend a small plot of land on which you grow a number of root vegetables as well as a few herbs that have traditional medicinal properties. You're a God-fearing woman who attends church as regularly as your old bones allow and you believe in the devil even if you don't put much stock in the stories of witches who attend to Satan in the woods at night, smearing their backs with 'devil's ointment' and putting hexes on livestock.

Recently you've seen people from your community being led away by the bishop's men to the courthouse, accused of paganism, if the gossip is to be believed. You don't think you have anything to fear. That is, until armed men garbed in the bishop's colours turn up at your house one morning to take you away. You comply without so much as a word of verbal resistance; it's all a mistake, of course. This will soon be cleared up, you think, as you're taken through the village's main thoroughfare, past the houses of friends and neighbours who peer suspiciously at you from their houses. You feel embarrassed at first but then remember assuming that the miller's wife, who had been taken away in this manner too, was found guilty of witchcraft. That's when you start to feel afraid.

The courthouse room is presided over by three judges with a clerk who takes the proceedings. Your name is added to the record before the accusations against you are laid out by the court: your neighbour, whom you've known for many years, has reported you to the church authorities for turning her cow's milk sour. She and her farmer husband have accused you of bringing the unseasonable wet weather that caused their harvest to fail and stirring carnal desires in their two maiden daughters, with love potions made from your herbs. You have no need for a lawyer or representation of any kind in this court, you're told, as witchcraft is deemed to be an exceptional crime in which God will defend the innocent.

Of course, you deny being a witch and all wrongdoing. It's absurd, you say, you've never seen eye to eye with your neighbours, who might just be mean enough to accuse you of witchcraft to get rid of you. Your denial is noted but the court considers witchcraft an extremely serious crime, so offers you clemency in return for a full confession. You stand firm and deny the charges, so are taken below to the cells for further questioning. Here, an appointed magistrate has you stripped and searched for magical charms concealed on your body. Your thumb is placed in a vice-like device and pressure applied as, once again, you're asked if you will confess to being a witch. You survive this first day of questioning without buckling under excruciating pain, only to fall foul of the torturer's rack. As the lever turns and your limbs splay, then pop, your eyes roll in agony – a sure sign that you seek Satan's aid. A confession is ultimately extricated and you're sent on a cart along with five other witches to a pyre the very next day, where you burn to death.

Witch-hunting worldwide

Scotland, 1715
Bessie Nevin had the unfortunate distinction of being the last witch to be executed in Scotland. She was hunted for three weeks before she was caught and burned to death.

New England, 1662
Salem gets its due share of notoriety, although witch-hunting had been going on for decades. The Hartford witch trials went on for several years and proved an interesting case of the witch-court's rationale

England, 1612
The Pendle Hill witch trials, one of the most infamous witch-hunts in English history, saw ten people executed for murders as a part of their Satanic rituals.

Denmark, 1590
The Protestant king James VI of Scotland (later to be king James I of England) was beset by bad weather when he made the crossing to meet his betrothed, Anne of Denmark. It was blamed on a coven, who were promptly tried and executed.

Zambia, 1935
'Witchfinders' called the Bamucapi roamed the villages of the Bemba people, stirring up fear and putting those who fell under suspicion on trial.

The Salem witch trials have gone down in infamy

Witch-hunting didn't start in the Reformation period but it's here that history remembers it best: between the tectonic struggle of the mighty Catholic and Protestant churches, striving to purge their flock of heresy and prove unassailable piety over the rival faith, anyone from the low-born to the noble could be next in line to be crushed. Only those from the very highest echelons of society were truly safe. So how did this seemingly insane state of affairs come about?

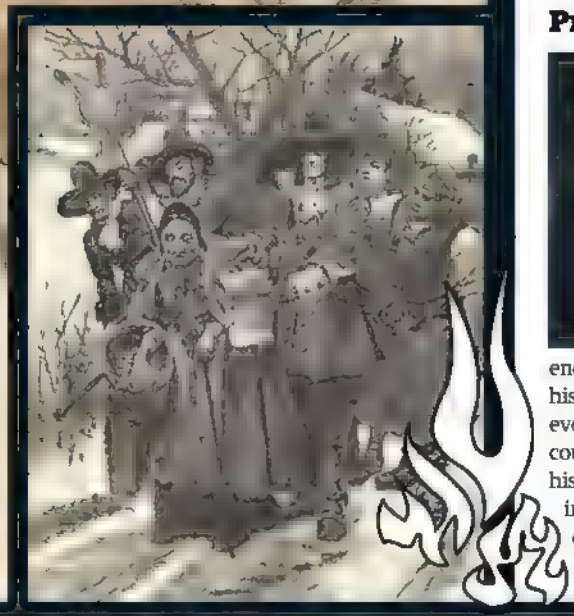
Much of what couldn't be explained by science in early recorded history was put down to 'magic', a means for ancient societies to understand, if not influence or control the world around them. Ancient Egyptians practised magic alongside more traditional medicine to promote health, protect themselves from evil spirits and communicate with their gods. The ancient Greeks used magic wands and symbols in all aspects of medicine and religion, while the Mesopotamians (what is now a large part of the Middle-East) recorded magical spells on clay tablets. Magic was generally indistinct from religion in many civilisations at this time, with the exception of Rome, where from 438 BCE onward practising magic, much like being a Christian, was made a crime punishable by death. Pagan Roman law looked to witchcraft as a source of many of the civilisation's ills, particularly epidemics and bad harvests. Over the course of several centuries thousands were executed.

In the centuries leading from antiquity to the witch-hunting boom, those in power considered witchcraft a silly superstition as frequently as a dangerous threat to society. The 8th-century Christian king of Italy, Charlemagne, scoffed at the belief in witchcraft and actually ordered the death penalty for those who pursued the burning of witches. Similarly, the 11th-century Danish court under King Harold considered the belief in witchcraft more dangerous than witchcraft itself and gave severe punishments to witch-hunters.

Through the Middle Ages, witchcraft was mostly tolerated or merely scoffed at and infrequently punished, often with a less punitive jail term or fine, depending on what the witch was accused

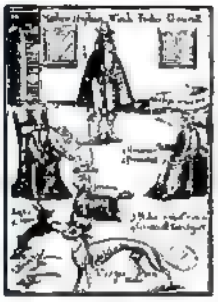
India, 2011
Superstition and belief in witchcraft is still held in many parts of the developing world. In India, three people in their sixties were attacked and killed by a lynch mob for allegedly practising black magic.

Saudi Arabia, Present day
Sorcery is treated with as draconian a punishment as blasphemy by the Saudi authorities. Those convicted of practising witchcraft (usually women) are invariably beheaded.



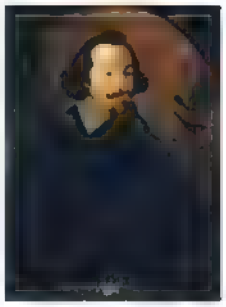
Who were the witch-hunters?

The Witch-Finder General England



Matthew Hopkins, the self-titled 'Witch-Finder General', was an English witch-hunter who was active from 1644-1647, during which time he was responsible for the execution of 300 convicted witches. He introduced many witch tests that could be considered farcical if it weren't for their dire consequences. His work was sanctioned by Parliament, but he quickly gained a bad reputation for his methods. After his death, he became the bogeyman of his own vile story. His real legacy, however, was his book *The Discovery of Witches*, which gained traction in the colonies of late 17th-century America, especially in a small community called Salem.

Prince-Bishop of Wurzburg Germany



With blue-bloods and the Pope behind him, Philipp Adolf von Ehrenberg was a powerful man in what is now southern Germany. A staunch anti-Protestant, his zeal for the eradication of witchcraft was matched only by his pursuit of the Catholic reclamation of Bavaria. With that in hand by the end of the 1620s, his focus turned to witches within his jurisdiction. No one was safe; his mass trials saw everyone from peasants to nobles dragged before the court and tried, if not convicted. In the eight years of his reign, over 900 people were burned at the stake, including devout priests, his own nephew and even children as young as three years old accused of fornicating with demons.

of. This changed in the 12th century when the Roman Catholic Inquisition was formed, initially to tackle secular faiths that had split off from the church and threatened the power in Rome. The early 14th century saw the Inquisition expand its remit and occasionally deal with users of magic where a sect had adopted witchcraft as a part of its doctrine, such as the Cathars of France – whom Rome decried as a church of Satan.

By the late Middle Ages, it had become increasingly perilous to openly practise anything but the Catholic faith. Shortly following a Papal bill issued by Pope Innocent VIII in 1484 that explicitly condemned devil-worshipers who had slain infants, two inquisitors were authorised to investigate witchcraft in Germany. They were Jacob Sprenger and Heinrich Kramer, who were quick to yoke a new invention, the printing press, and publish what would become an infamous and influential tome on dealing with witchcraft and witches: the *Malleus Maleficarum* – 'Hammer Against Witches'. This treatise sought to reinforce the existence of witchcraft, educate officials in finding and prosecuting them and to lay the burden of its evils on women. It was widely read but within a few years the Catholic Church had distanced itself from this book, primarily because it had become popular with the secular faiths it sought to exterminate. But with the dawn of Protestant Reformation, the book and its ilk became the linchpin for the witch-hunting boom, as the Protestant Church endorsed these tomes precisely because they were outlawed by Rome.

"Pagan Roman law looked to witchcraft as a source of many of the civilisation's ills, particularly epidemics and bad harvests"

Are you a witch?

Start here

Test 1
You have been accused of witchcraft: how do you plead?

Not guilty

Guilty

Death 1
You are burned at the stake for the crime of being a witch

There were many ways someone found guilty of witchcraft could be executed hanging and beheading were common and drowning was merciful compared to being burned to death. This was a method employed by the zealous Prince-Bishops of Bavaria, who believed that fire was the only way to purge the evil of witchcraft from the land.

Test 2
You are tried by ducking, do you?

Float

Sink

No plea

Cry 'not guilty'

Cry 'guilty'

Test 3
You are sentenced to pressing, do you:

One way to determine whether a person was in league with the devil or not was to bind their right thumb to their left toe and throw them into a pond. If they were rejected by the 'baptismal waters' and floated, they were convicted of witchcraft. If they sank without trace, they were innocent – unfortunately that also meant they would drown.

Death 2
You drown: clearly you were innocent of this crime

Enter No plea

Death 3
You are pressed to death and your estate passes to your heirs

Common law in 17th-century Britain and its colonies meant the defendant could only be tried if they submitted themselves to a trial – if they entered a plea. To coerce a plea out of the accused, they would be stripped naked and a plank placed on their chest, before rocks and other heavy weights were piled onto it. There was a genuine incentive for defendants to 'stand mute' – the Crown was unable to forfeit the property if they weren't found guilty.

As the creation of Protestant churches swept across Europe, witch-hunting took place in earnest, encouraged by many royal houses like Denmark and Scotland. Fuelled by religious persecution, the hysteria among the people came in waves marked by a spike in executions. A witch could be accused of causing disease, death, disaster (natural or otherwise), for living in a remote location, being thought strange or foreign or simply being in the wrong place and time. The motives of the accuser could be equally arbitrary, from genuine belief that a witch brought some misfortune upon the community, to even more sinister motives, such as a means of social control by the authorities or to confiscate the property of the accused. In the witch-hunting boom in Scotland that lasted up until the 18th century, those practising witchcraft went from being thought superstitious crackpots to dangerous devil-worshippers: they had sold their souls to Satan and held anti-Christian services called a witches' Sabbath. Witchcraft was legislated against in 1563 and over the course of the next 150 years or so, the 'witch-prickers' went about their business of pricking the body of a person accused of witchcraft; if they didn't bleed, it was viable evidence for the court to try them.

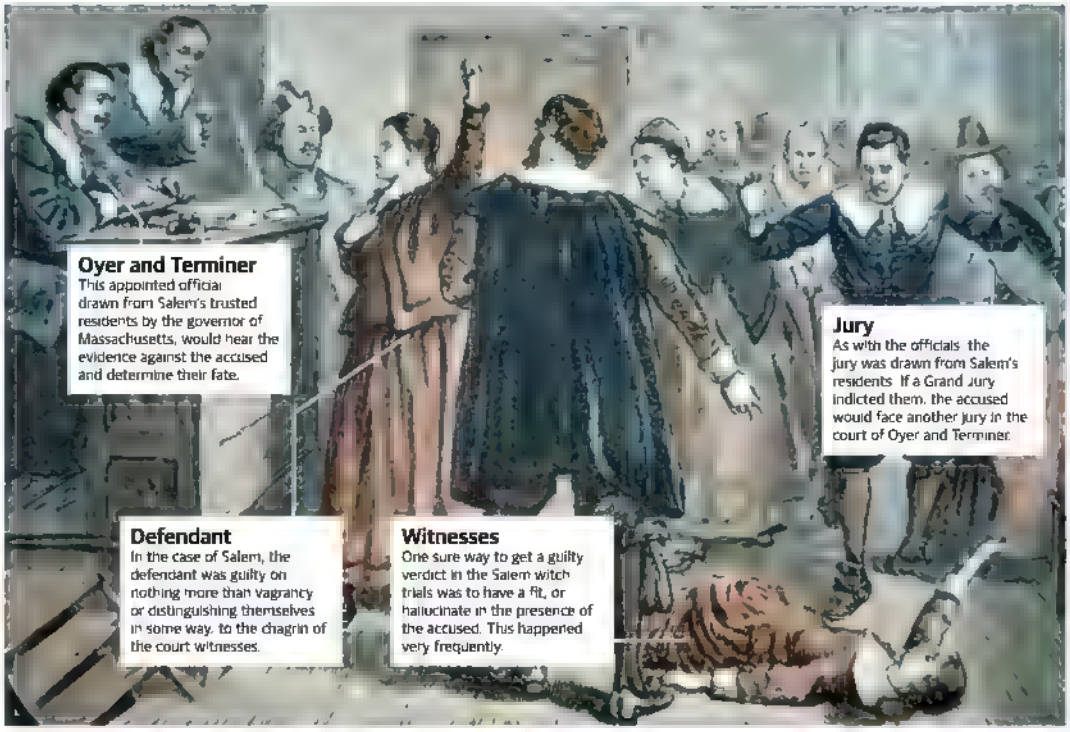
Torture was a common means of extracting information from those who weren't immediately cleared by the courts. Although the height of the witch trial era was marked by general disregard for real evidence and irrational hysteria, torture wasn't a completely arbitrary practice and there was a certain method to be followed: generally speaking, the torture came in several degrees of increasing intensity and brutality, observed and recorded by a clerk. The idea was to extract a confession and have the accused repeat the confession outside of the torture; the accused was presumed guilty and often, even those convinced of their

The Salem witch trials

Possibly the most infamous witch-hunt in history took place over the course of a few months in the Puritan community of Salem, New England in 1692. After a doctor had come to the conclusion that the daughter and niece of reverend Samuel Parris were suffering from a witch's spell, the village of Salem descended into an ever-increasing spiral of accusations

This was spurred on by the anecdotal support of the two young girls and other, similarly afflicted residents, who went on to implicate over 150 people, mostly women but also men and one child. The trials themselves were an utter sham: convictions were mostly based on the fits and hallucinations of witnesses, apparently caused by the accused's presence

Of the 150 accused, 14 women and four men were sent to the gallows while one particularly stoic man, Giles Corey, endured 'pressing' – which involved piling rocks on his chest – rather than entering a plea of any kind. After two days he expired, but remained resolute until his death. After five months of madness, the governor of Massachusetts dissolved Salem's witch-court and replaced it with one based on reliable testimonials, which resulted in the release of all awaiting trial.



Oyer and Terminer
This appointed official drawn from Salem's trusted residents by the governor of Massachusetts, would hear the evidence against the accused and determine their fate.

Jury
As with the officials, the jury was drawn from Salem's residents. If a Grand Jury indicted them, the accused would face another jury in the court of Oyer and Terminer.

Defendant
In the case of Salem, the defendant was guilty on nothing more than vagrancy or distinguishing themselves in some way, to the chagrin of the court witnesses.

Witnesses
One sure way to get a guilty verdict in the Salem witch trials was to have a fit, or hallucinate in the presence of the accused. This happened very frequently.

"Torture was a common means of extracting information from those who weren't immediately cleared"

innocence would admit to anything after the prolonged agony of cruel and unusual punishments – it was a rare occasion for torture leading to an acquittal.

England brought in serious penalties for witches under the Witchcraft Act of 1542, amended in 1562 and 1604 to repeal certain statutes, such as the 'benefit of clergy', which spared anyone who could read a passage from the Bible. One of the most famous witch trials in England were of the Pendle witches in 1612, which saw ten people, mostly women, sent to the gallows. King James I was driven by Protestant theology and was particularly interested in witchcraft and its eradication. Thus, those who refused to attend the Church of England to partake in holy communion, such as the devout Catholics of the Pendle Hill region in Lancashire, immediately popped up on the radar of local Justice of the Peace, Roger Nowell. Further probing by Nowell revealed that several of these local non-conformists already considered them witches of a kind, providing healing and potions for the community – a common trade in the 17th century. After summoning three members of the Device family, Nowell was told that the Chattox family – who competed for their trade in the potion and charm business – had murdered four men from the area. The Chattoxes were summoned and accusations and counter-accusations flew throughout the community, resulting in ten people being hanged.

Similar stories played out in the rest of Europe and the North-American colonies. German heiress Merga Bien, heavily pregnant at the time, was convicted of murdering her husband by witchcraft and that her unborn child had been fathered by the devil. She was burned at the stake. Anna Kolding was one of several people who bore the brunt of a Danish minister looking to shift blame for under-supplying the royal ships on a journey across the North Sea. She was accused of summoning storms, found guilty and was burned at the stake.

In the 18th century, a more rational and scientific age finally arrived. Pioneering astronomers and scientists like Galileo and Newton had laid the groundwork for an empirical generation who sought to verify the nature of the world by observation rather than superstition. A dim view was now taken of those who still believed in witchcraft and persecuted 'witches', and this brought with it a far less punitive culture. During the reign of George II, the Witchcraft Act of 1735 made it explicitly illegal for anyone in Britain to claim that they or anyone else had magical powers and were a witch. Other countries quickly followed suit, finally signalling the end of two centuries of madness. Although nearly 70,000 people are thought to have been executed during the brutal witch-hunts of the early modern age, only around 12,000 of these executions have been officially recorded.

Witch-hunting hasn't been totally consigned to the past, though, and still happens today in rural parts of India, Africa and Saudi Arabia, which has active legislation against sorcery, people are still executed for witchcraft. But for most countries, there are important lessons to be learned from the hysteria and abandonment of rationale that marks the period of witch hunting.

© Carlos Abi Daher

Competition

What is this?

Visit **www.historyanswers.co.uk** and tell us

Is it a...
A. Mirror
B. Lighthouse lens
C. Telephone

WIN

A year's subscription to
ALL ABOUT HISTORY
for you, a family member or friend, 13 issues of the world's most engaging and visually stunning history magazine

The Historical Association
Passionate about History?
We are, are you?

If you love: Reading historical publications, attending history events, talks, courses and meeting like minded people with a passion for history

Why not become a member of the Historica Association? Visit us at: www.history org.uk

Building on over 100 years of history expertise

Join The Historical Association today with a subscription to *The Historian* and get 15 months for the price of 12. Please quote AAH13, offer is valid until 14 February 2014

FEED YOUR MIND

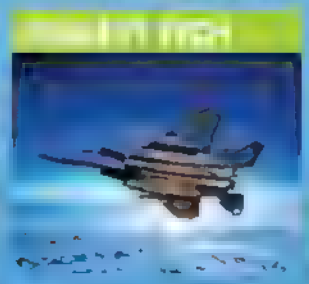
www.howitworksdaily.com

HOW IT WORKS

ON SALE NOW

Available from all good newsagents and supermarkets

Bright innovations | Hunting asteroids | Surviving the Antarctic | Fastest vehicles



BUY YOUR ISSUE TODAY

Print edition available at www.imagineshop.co.uk

Digital edition available at www.greatdigitalmags.com

Available on the following platforms

facebook.com/howitworks

twitter.com/@howitworksmag

REVIEW ROUNDUP

REVIEW ROUNDUP: ENGLISH MONARCHS

The best books, films and apps on English kings and queens

BOOKS

BIOGRAPHIES

Elizabeth Norton's *Elfrida: The First Crowned Queen Of England* investigates the little-known life of the Anglo-Saxon queen and alleged murderer of her stepson. The word 'alleged' is important here, as Norton is working with scarce resources. With solid evidence in short supply she does a good job of painting an engaging portrait without descending too much into speculation, as other writers might be tempted to do, while providing an insight into life in England.

If you like this try...

Winter King **Thomas Penn**

His colourful son may have overshadowed him, but he would never have ruled without his father's military victory and shrewd rule. A vivid portrait of a cunning king.

FICTION

When you think of historical fiction on English kings and queens, one figure undoubtedly looms large over the subject: Philippa Gregory. *The White Queen* tells the tale of Elizabeth Woodville, who seduces and marries Edward IV of York during the War of the Roses. It should surprise no one to learn that a degree of historical licence has been taken, but this is still an engaging and vivid portrait of a country at war with itself.

If you like this try...

Innocent Traitor **Alison Weir**

Weir tells the tale of one of the most tumultuous periods of the English monarchy when the 15-year old Lady Jane Grey found herself the country's queen for nine days.

HOW THEY LIVED

Our modern society seems, at times, to be completely obsessed with procreation. In the Tudor court, sex was also high on the agenda, but with whole dynasties and kingdoms often resting on the outcome it was a high-stakes game. *In Bed With The Tudors* offers an insight through the marriages, affairs and deaths of the Tudors, with Amy Licence's text covering the period from Elizabeth of York up until Mary and Elizabeth, whose effective virginity ended the dynasty.

If you like this try...

Image Wars **Kevin Sharpe**

Image and spin may seem like a modern phenomena but this book covering 1603-60 shows how public image manipulation has always been vital to authority.

OVERVIEW

The Kings & Queens Of England. The Biography by David Loades is a comprehensive account of a monarchy that has lasted 1,200 years and survived depositions, usurpations, civil wars, executions and intense media scrutiny. At around 500 pages with a chapter dedicated to each monarch, from Athelstan to Elizabeth II, it's an all-encompassing guide for anyone wanting an overview of the subject. At £25 it isn't cheap, but is a quality addition to the subject.

THE QUEEN

Year: 2006
Directed by: Stephen Frears

1997 was a turbulent year for Britain: Tony Blair's Labour party had swept to power and Princess Diana was tragically killed in a car crash. Helen Mirren's portrayal of a queen trying to combine her views on decorum and tradition with a very different modern world and media is a joy to behold.

TOP 3 APPS

The British monarchy at your fingertips

KING HENRY VIII

IPad+: IOS 4.3+ | £1.49

The app contains detailed information on the infamous Henry VIII's life, notably his birth, reign, wives and mistresses, his reformation of the Church of England and his final years and legacy.

THE BRITISH MONARCHY

IPad+: IOS 5.1+ | £0.69/$0.99

Perfect for anyone who wants to know more about the British monarchy, this features information and an image of every British king or queen, as well as the option to perform integrated web searching without having to leave the application, which in turn opens up new possibilities.

WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR

Windows: 8.1 | Free

This audiobook by Jacob Abbott captures William the Conqueror's life and events in plain language. An internet connection is not required after downloading, meaning history enthusiasts can listen to it anywhere they choose.

TELEVISION AND FILMS

THE TUDORS

Year: 2007-10
Directed by: Michael Hirst

A television series based on the loves and marriages of king Henry VIII and the main players at court, this is enjoyable television for anyone prepared to disengage their brain and sense of historical accuracy and authenticity and enjoy the ride. Not one for the history purist, but it sweeps along at a brisk pace and is entertaining for the casual observer.

MONARCHY – SERIES 1-3

Year: 2004
Directed by: David Starkey

The complete box set tells the story of the British monarchy from its earliest years to the present day. Presented by one of England's best-known and charismatic - and sometimes controversial - historians, it is never short of compelling and displays some nice visual touches which bring the subject to life.

MADNESS OF KING GEORGE

Year: 1994
Directed by: Nicholas Hytner

A thought-provoking look at the illness suffered by George III and the great highs and lows this gave him. The film also astutely examines the politics of government at the time.

EDITOR'S PICK

One of the reasons expectations were so high for its sequel (to find out the extent of its historical accuracy, flick a few pages back to page 98) was just how good 1998's *Elizabeth* was. It's a perfect example of a film that strives for historical accuracy (even if it doesn't always quite achieve it) combined with telling a fast-paced, engaging and at times complex story that doesn't patronise its audience. The film focuses on Elizabeth's early life, when the staunchly Catholic Mary was in charge and Elizabeth's future - let alone her ascension to the throne - looked decidedly perilous. Featuring a commanding lead performance from Cate Blanchett and strong support from Geoffrey Rush, Joseph Fiennes and Christopher Eccleston, it nicely handles the pressure placed on her queen by her council to marry to help secure the country's future.

"Featuring a commanding lead performance from Cate Blanchett"

© Alamy

START

TAKE THE £1 JANUARY CHALLENGE

1 trial subscription

2 with every issue learn something new

3 Knowledge Science Technology Design Inventions

Choose a **trial subscription** to any one of our inspiring and informative magazines and you are **guaranteed to learn something new with every issue.**

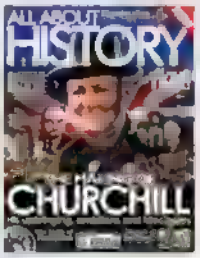
Whether you are interested in science, history, photography or technology, you can get **3 trial issues of any magazine for only £1*.**

£1 for 3 issues*

*This offer entitles new UK direct debit subscribers to receive their first 3 issues for £1. After these issues standard subscription pricing will apply. Subscribers can cancel this subscription at any time. New subscriptions will start from the next available issue. Offer code JAN141 must be quoted to receive this special subscription price. Details of the Direct Debit guarantee are available on request. This offer expires 01/03/2014. Imagine Publishing reserves the right to limit this type of offer to one per household.

Practical inspiration for the 3D/CG community.

The magazine for Adobe® Photoshop® professionals.



Making history entertaining for the whole family.

Discover the wonders of the solar system and beyond.

How to shoot, edit and share better photos.

The leading magazine for Adobe Photoshop® inspiration.

The number one independent PlayStation magazine.

Packed with all the monsters kids aged 6-14 love most.

ORDER NOW
www.imaginesubs.co.uk/challenge
or call 0844 856 0644
Please quote offer code
JAN141

£1 for 3 issues*

BROADEN YOUR MIND
EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS

Knowledge / Science / Technology / Design / Videogames

£1 for 3 issues*

www.imaginesubs.co.uk/challenge

Join the revolution with the world's most exciting technology.

The photography magazine for enthusiasts and professionals.

The magazine for people who can't live without games.

The science and technology magazine that feeds minds.

If Apple made a magazine it would be iCreate.

The essential magazine for the GNU generation.

The number one magazine for classic gaming.

Number one for sci-fi, fantasy and horror.

The only Porsche magazine dedicated to the 911.

The premier magazine for digital online creatives.

The new, action-packed animal wildlife magazine.

The ultimate XONE magazine for the true fan.

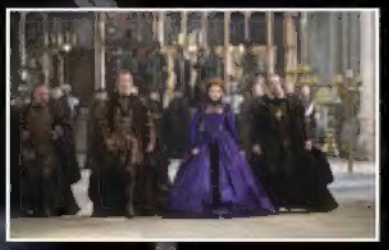
HISTORY VS HOLLYWOOD

Fact versus fiction on the silver screen

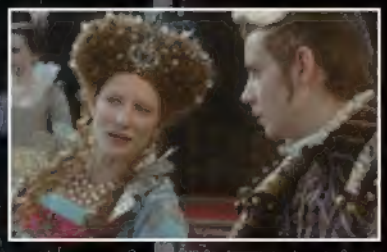
WHAT THEY GOT WRONG...

01 In the film, Elizabeth is confronted on the altar of Old St Paul's Cathedral by Anthony Babington wielding a pistol. While this near-assassination is good for heart-in-mouth tension, Anthony Babington's plot was actually uncovered during the planning stage and he was promptly hung, drawn and quartered.

02 "We're losing too many ships!" screeches Charles Howard, Earl of Nottingham as the Armada meets the English fleet. This is another bit of drama for the sake of story; no English ships were sunk during the real battle and Howard – Elizabeth's most effective enforcer – wasn't the screeching type.



03 Both English courtiers and Spanish envoys wear swords when they meet Elizabeth I, but in reality the constant threat of assassination meant that only members of the Royal Guard were allowed to carry weapons in the queen's presence.



04 The film depicts the queen being presented with aspiring suitors from across Europe, including Erik of Sweden. In 1585 – the year of the Spanish Armada – the queen was 52, all the wooing had happened when she was around 27 and Erik had actually died in 1577.

05 Sir Walter Raleigh takes a lead role in the on-screen defeat of the Armada. In the real event his input was limited to the less-than-blockbuster subject of naval reform, while the daring defence of the realm was co-ordinated by Sir Francis Drake, Robert Dudley and various others.

ELIZABETH: THE GOLDEN AGE

Elizabeth I's finest hour against the Spanish Armada isn't quite Hollywood's

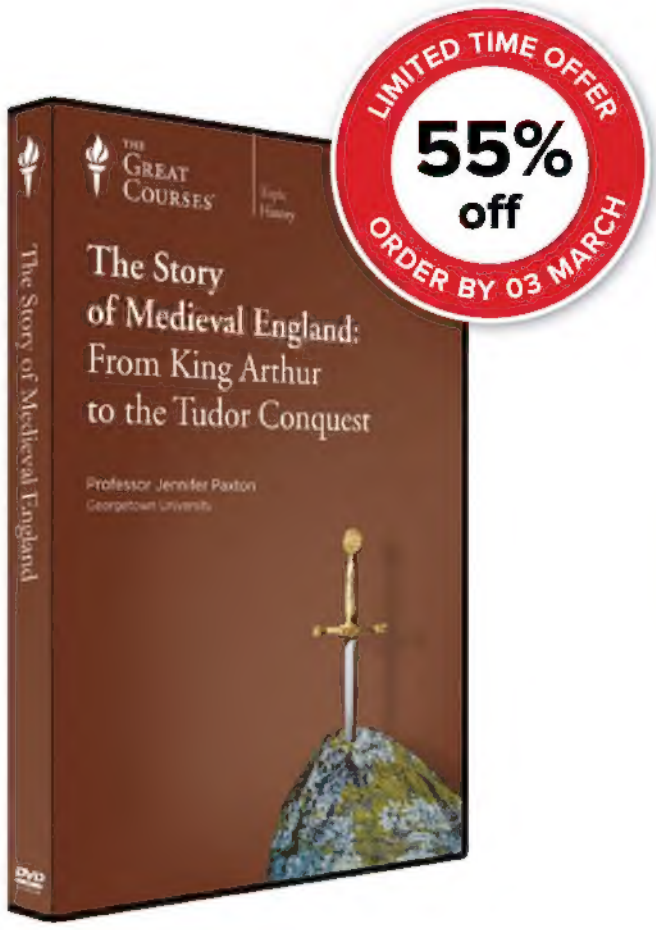
Director: Shekhar Kapur **Starring:** Cate Blanchett, Geoffrey Rush, Clive Owen **Country of origin:** UK **Year made:** 2007

What they got right

The scene introducing Raleigh is an accurate depiction (aside from the distracting costumes) as he presents tobacco, potatoes and two Native Americans as the duty free gifts of his Atlantic adventures. How smitten Elizabeth is with him at this time is also accurate.

© Alamy

THE GREAT COURSES®



Discover the True Story of Medieval England

While many of us search for the roots of our world in the contributions of modern England, it's the *medieval* history of this country where our search must begin. Understanding this era is key to understanding many of the social, political, and cultural legacies that enrich the 21st century.

The Story of Medieval England: From King Arthur to the Tudor Conquest tells the remarkable drama of a tumultuous thousand-year period in English history; one dominated by war, conquest, and the struggle to balance the stability of royal power with the rights of the governed. Delivered by distinguished scholar and award-winning professor Jennifer Paxton, these 36 lectures feature a level of detail and attention that offers fresh insights into medieval England: its rulers and subjects, its times of war and peace, its literature and legends, and much more.

Offer expires 10/03/14

0800 298 9796

WWW.THEGREATCOURSES.CO.UK/3ABH

The Story of Medieval England: From King Arthur to the Tudor Conquest

Taught by Professor Jennifer Paxton
THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

LECTURE TITLES

1. From Britannia to Britain
2. Roman Britain and the Origins of King Arthur
3. The Early Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms
4. The Conversion of the Anglo-Saxons
5. Work and Faith in Anglo-Saxon England
6. The Viking Invasions
7. Alfred the Great
8. The Government of Anglo-Saxon England
9. The Golden Age of the Anglo-Saxons
10. The Second Viking Conquest
11. The Norman Conquest
12. The Reign of William the Conqueror
13. Conflict and Assimilation
14. Henry I—The Lion of Justice
15. The Anarchy of Stephen's Reign
16. Henry II—Law and Order
17. Henry II—The Expansion of Empire
18. Courtly Love
19. Richard the Lionheart and the Third Crusade
20. King John and the Magna Carta
21. Daily Life in the 13th Century
22. The Disastrous Reign of Henry III
23. The Conquests of Edward I
24. Edward II—Defeat and Deposition
25. Edward III and the Hundred Years' War
26. The Flowering of Chivalry
27. The Black Death
28. The Peasants' Revolt of 1381
29. Chaucer and the Rise of English
30. The Deposition of Richard II
31. Daily Life in the 15th Century
32. Henry V and the Victory at Agincourt
33. Henry VI—Defeat and Division
34. The Wars of the Roses
35. Richard III—Betrayal and Defeat
36. England in 1485

The Story of Medieval England:
From King Arthur to the Tudor Conquest
Course no. 8410 | 36 lectures (30 minutes/lecture)

SAVE UP TO £45

DVD ~~£79.99~~ NOW £34.99
CD ~~£54.99~~ NOW £34.99

+£2.99 Postage and Packing
Priority Code: 92574

Designed to meet the demand for lifelong learning, The Great Courses is a highly popular series of audio and video lectures led by top professors and experts. Each of our nearly 500 courses is an intellectually engaging experience that will change how you think about the world. Since 1990, over 14 million courses have been sold.

The Great Courses®, Unit A, Sovereign Business Park, Brenda Road, Hartlepool, TS25 1NN. Terms and conditions apply. See www.thegreatcourses.co.uk for details.

1:72 New Tooling

IT WOULD BE A CRIME NOT TO JOIN

Join the Official Airfix Club today from only £7.99!

Enamel Club Badge

Club Membership Card
10% discount in participating shops*

The Latest Airfix Catalogue

The Annual Collectors Badge

Airfix Flying Hours for FREE Kits

Discounts OFF Magazine Subscriptions

Three Airfix Club Magazines a Year

Airfix Wall Calendar**

The Airfix 2014 Club is available in two packages:

Download Membership

Consists of all members offers on this page - except the Catalogue and three Club magazines which are available via email for only **£7.99**

Postal Membership

Consists of all members offers on this page - plus you will receive the Catalogue and three Club magazines through the post for only **£9.99**

Scan this QR code with your smartphone to find out more!

Featured Kit: Club Special 2014
A82014
Operation Torch 'The Sparks of Liberation' 1:72nd
Limited stock available. Set includes 1x Fairey Swordfish Mk.1 1x Hawker Sea Hurricane Mk.XII, 2 x Decal options.

HORNBY
A Hornby Product

airfix.com
and all good retail stockists

Find us on Facebook @Airfix YouTube

AIRFIX CLUB
Join the Official Airfix Club

PROJECT AIRFIX
For schools and all youth organisations

Humbrol™
humbrol.com